



**FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

STATEMENT

BY

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**Madame President, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Argentine Government for the kind and warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for COP4 in this beautiful city of Buenos Aires. We are confident that under your able leadership and guidance, this session will be successfully concluded.

We all recognize that climate change is a real threat to humankind. The diplomatic complexity, posed by the climate problem must be resolved in the manner that is equitable and fair to all, taking into account historic, current and future emissions of all greenhouse gases.

Thailand fully supports the concept of global partnership between North and South, as well as South and South, in combating climate change, which is a global concern. But this must be done on the basis of equity and in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities as stipulated in the Convention. Six years have already passed since its adoption, but most of the developed country Parties still have not shown genuine efforts in :

- i) taking the lead to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, and
- ii) taking practical steps to promote and facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries in accordance with Article 4.5 of the Convention,

Madame President,

Recognizing that developed countries are financially able to do so, as well as endowed with a variety of suitable technologies, we, therefore, urge them to live up to their commitments and make every effort to return to their 1990 levels emissions of greenhouse gases as required under Article 4.2 (b) of the Convention. We share the prevailing view that the commitments in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of Article 4.2 are inadequate for the fulfillment of the objective of the Convention. In this regard, we recognize that the Kyoto Protocol is a critical first step in the right direction. As for Thailand, our cabinet just last week approved the signing of the protocol as well as gave the green light to start the ratification process.

However, further action is needed, especially with regard to emission reduction targets to be achieved by the developed country Parties in the longer term, because of the fact that the largest share of historic and current global emissions of greenhouse gases has originated in developed countries. Insisting upon the right to development, we demand that the share of global emissions in developing countries will have to grow to meet their social and development needs, because per capita emissions in these countries are still relatively low.

Madame President,

The time will definitely come, when some of us are financially in a position to undertake voluntary commitments to reduce the growth of their greenhouse gas emissions. Such commitments are voluntary activities, that should be based on our own initiatives and

capabilities, taking into account our socio-economic conditions and the stage of technology development.

Madame President,

Eventhough Thailand does not have any emission reduction commitment, she has been engaging in various programmes and activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions :

i) in the energy sector, we have been implementing an energy conservation programme since 1992. This programme includes several on-going awareness campaigns to conserve energy, a compulsory work plan to achieve energy efficiency in large industrial plants and commercial buildings, and a demand-side management project. The project has been partially financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The demand-side management (DSM) activities are intended to influence electricity consumers in reducing their consumption voluntarily,

ii) in the transport sector, mitigation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the use of fossil fuels comprise, inter alia , the introduction of diesel oil with low distillation temperature, the promotion of LNG and natural gas for vehicles, the improvement of vehicle emission standards, the introduction of an elevated train system in the capital city of Bangkok next year, to be followed by the underground train system a few years later.

iii) in the forestry sector, Thailand is now implementing a forest master plan aiming at increasing forest cover to enhance carbon sinks as well as to protect the remaining forests. The strategy includes reforestation, afforestation, as well as management of protected areas.

Madame President,

We welcome the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as one of the mechanisms envisaged in the Kyoto Protocol. However, we would like to make it clear that CDM should not be seen as the sole means of technology transfer to developing countries. We are of the strong opinion that rules and modalities of the CDM should be devised in such a way that they do not weaken the commitments of developed countries to reverse their emission trends.

Madame President,

To conclude, let me affirm you that Thailand is willing to play her fair share in the global efforts to combat climate change. Despite the fact that we are facing a current severe economic crisis, we still continue to intensify our efforts to fulfill our existing commitments under the Convention. We, hence, urge the world leaders to strengthen their endeavour to implement the Framework Convention as well as to sign and ratify the Kyoto Protocol as early as possible. I would like to remind you all that we are here at COP4 to make decisions that will further progress of the international response to resolve the climate change issue. We need a strong political will to reconcile differing views and positions. Therefore, I urge you, Ministers and other heads of delegations, to provide guidance to COP4 in order to reach satisfactory conclusions on various pending issues.

Thank you.