

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
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STATEMENT
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OF THE **REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA**

Mr. Chairman, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the beginning I would like to express our gratitude to the City of Kyoto and the Government of Japan for the warm welcome. It is the pleasure to stay and work here in this beautiful historical town and we hope it will inspire all delegations with wisdom and determination to conclude successfully the process that was initiated more than two years ago in Berlin.

We believe there is enough scientific evidence that Earth's climate is endangered by anthropogenic activities. All IPCC scenarios agree that without reducing GHG emissions the climate will inevitably change, the average temperature and sea level will rise, and there will be many other, predominantly adverse consequences. Many are of the opinion that the first impacts of changing climate can already be observed.

As I pointed out on several occasions, it is Slovenia's firm position that the world community has to do something to mitigate climate change. This in fact means to reduce GHG emissions. And we have to start now! We know this is not an easy task. As it is demonstrated e.g. in IPCC documents, such as in its first Technical Paper "Technologies, Policies and Measures for Mitigating Climate Change" many no-regret measures exist, many of them can even be realized at negative cost without jeopardizing our standard of living. However, it seems to be a bigger problem sometimes to change our mind, our habits and behaviour, than to obtain necessary funds and technical knowledge to reduce GHG emissions.

Mr. Chairman,

Slovenia has not been an Annex I party until now. However in October this year Slovenia notified the Depositary of the Convention that it intends to be bound by sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Article 4.2 of the Convention. Thus we expressed our will to voluntarily take on

corresponding commitments. Appropriate decision has been already adopted by COP3 last Friday. Further, it is our firm opinion that all Annex I Parties must contribute their share in reducing GHG emissions in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, written in its Article 2. Slovenia supports the ambitious targets for GHG emission reductions, for example as proposed by European Union. However, if there is no flat rate reduction agreed – we are ready to accept only those obligations as negotiated for the countries with similar level of economic development and per capita GHG emissions. And we hope that until the end of this session a sensible solution will be found in order to reach a common agreement on legally binding targets.

Mr. Chairman,

As many speakers have pointed out during this session, it is also important how the targets could be met. We believe that energy efficiency programmes together with strengthening of market mechanisms are the real opportunity for a Slovenian transitional economy. We also endorse other instruments e.g. emission trading if there exist firm and agreed rules of such trading. Notably, proper monitoring and reviewing process are necessary components of such rules.

Although being relatively small Slovenia has rich climate and biotic diversity and is particularly vulnerable in its Alpine part. Therefore we have deep understanding for those countries, which are seriously endangered by climate change, above all small island states.

Legally binding targets for Annex I parties that this conference will adopt are only beginning of a long lasting process that will have to include other players in world community. We agree that no new commitments for Parties not included in Annex I should be introduced in the frame of Berlin Mandate. Having in mind the global nature of climate change and rapid growth of emissions in some developing countries it is also clear, however, that without limiting their GHG emissions our climate will by no means be saved. Even more, some of the developing countries will be most inflicted by adverse impacts of climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to conclude with a thought that effectively expresses our position in a single sentence: “We cannot afford to wait ... and be wrong”.

Thank you Mr. Chairman