

**STATEMENT NO. 17: PANAMA<sup>8</sup>**

Thank you Mr. President, fellow delegates, particularly delegates from the Group of 77 and China, our dear colleagues from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, Mr. Asadi, and his team. The delegation of Panama would like to express its optimism and happiness at having success in this dialogue among countries which have grasped the need to adapt human development. Panama has ratified the Convention, and was the eighth country to ratify the Kyoto Protocol because we believe in the need to seek a global solution to a problem which affects us all.

The process underway today marks a milestone. It is the result of the perseverance and flexibility which we firmly believe in. Our national anthem begins with some words which we hope can apply to the whole world: "*Let us achieve victory in the happy fields of union.*" In other words, a victory coupled with union in our understanding of the consequences seeking to attain a balance and in our discussion, and in our understanding of the consequences, not merely the environmental, but also social and economic matters as well.

Mr. President, from the narrow isthmus of the American continent, Panama, a small tropical country, so severely vulnerable to climate change, yet positive and optimistic, calls for compromise with a view to refining what has already been agreed upon, a commitment to fill in the gaps, but also a material commitment from the more developed Parties. We believe in the capacity of mature countries for dialogue, and I would invite all those present to recall the words of Schiller, and put to music by Ludwig van Beethoven, a credit to his country, Germany, that this event be marked with Freunde - with happiness!

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<sup>8</sup> The original statement was delivered in Spanish.