

MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE: "Assessment of progress at the national, regional and international levels to fulfill the promise and objective enshrined in the climate change agreements, including scientific, information, policy and financial aspects."

INTERVENTION BY THE PHILIPPINES

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS SIMPLY CONFIRM OUR WORST FEARS: THAT THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY IS IN NO HURRY TO DECISIVELY ADDRESS WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE THE WORST DISASTER FACING HUMANKIND. WE RESOLVE THE MOST PERIPHERAL ISSUES BUT SKIRT THE ONES WHICH SHOULD BE FRONTALLY ADDRESSED.

THE NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AND OUR DISCUSSIONS SIMPLY HIGHLIGHT THE DEGREE AND PACE WITH WHICH PARTIES ARE MOVING TOWARDS ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE CONVENTION. SUCH PACE IS GROSSLY INADEQUATE RELATIVE TO THE NEED TO KEEP THE WARMING BELOW TWO DEGREES TO AVOID CATASTROPHIC IMPACTS TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

BASED ON THEIR OWN ASSESSMENT, MANY ANNEX I COUNTRY PARTIES ADMIT THAT THEIR EMISSIONS ARE INCREASING SIGNIFICANTLY. WE TALK OF ENABLING ENVIRONMENTS FOR THE OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR WORK LIKE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BUT FAIL TO COMPLETE THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF ALL. THE KYOTO PROTOCOL STILL HAS TO ENTER INTO FORCE – AND IT IS IRONIC THAT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY PARTIES ARE THE FIRST TO RATIFY. HOW THEN CAN WE BEGIN TO TALK OF STABILIZING GLOBAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION LEVELS IF WE CANNOT EVEN UNDERTAKE SMALL STEPS LIKE LETTING THE PROTOCOL ENTER INTO FORCE?

SELF INTEREST TO ONE OF GLOBAL COOPERATION, WE WILL ALL SINK IN THE QUAGMIRE OF OUR OWN MAKING. FOR WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT. UNLESS, OF COURSE, SOME OF US ALREADY HAVE PLANS OF ABANDONING SHIP BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE MEANS.

I THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN.