



**TENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)**

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STATEMENT

by

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Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to convey to all of you the best wishes of the UNDP Administrator, Mark Malloch Brown, for success in your deliberations. A global response to limit the adverse impacts of climate change is critical, and UNDP considers ratification of the Kyoto Protocol to be a key first step on the long path to a lower greenhouse gas intensive society.

An effective global response will require both mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as effective cooperation between developed and developing countries. Most developed countries are striving for absolute reductions in their per capita emissions of greenhouse gasses. While developing country emissions would rise as their development proceeds, their efforts to reduce their emissions will, to a large extent, depend on the extent to which they can access appropriate technology, build adequate national capacity and mobilize sufficient internal and external financial resources.

UNDP, through its activities in over 160 countries, is playing its role in assisting developing countries to meet these challenges. From China, where we are demonstrating fuel cell buses that have zero tailpipe emissions and higher fuel efficiency, to tiny Tokelau in the South Pacific where we are helping the Government adapt to sea-level rise by constructing the necessary barriers, UNDP is on the ground advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

Since 1986, UNDP has implemented over 400 energy and climate change projects that have reduced greenhouse emissions in 140 countries. These have involved \$2 billion in investment, mainly through the Global Environment Facility. GEF-funded examples include:

- producing energy-efficient refrigerators in China and Cuba;
- promoting biomass power in Brazil, Slovenia and Thailand;
- supporting policies for development of commercial wind energy markets in Kazakhstan, Mexico and Tunisia;
- establishing a foundation for the sustainable use of photovoltaic systems in Uganda;
- promoting renewable energy based small enterprise development in Guatemala;

- developing standards and labels for energy efficient building in Lebanon and the Czech Republic; and
- promoting industrial energy efficiency in Bulgaria, Kenya and Malaysia.

Recognizing the impact of climate change on communities, the GEF Small Grants Programme, implemented by UNDP on behalf of the GEF partnership, has approved 790 small grants totaling \$29 million to community-level bodies. Other UNDP joint initiatives include the Global Village Energy partnership, the Global LPG Challenge, and the Footprint Neutral Program – an innovative public-private partnership that will enable companies and consumers to offset their greenhouse gas emissions by investing in projects that yield multiple sustainable development benefits.

The Clean Development Mechanism is another potentially important instrument for engaging the developing world and promoting sustainable development. UNDP has worked with 20 developing countries already and will continue to support the development of effective CDM enabling environments.

On adaptation to climate change, we need to move from words to action and enhance our preparedness to cope with the impacts of climate change. UNDP is working on several fronts, including biodiversity, water, health, disaster preparedness and land-use sustainability, to help identify and implement effective coping and risk reduction strategies to deal with future climate change impacts.

UNDP is also supporting 100 developing countries in their national communications to the Climate Change Convention. Most have completed their initial communications and several have started their second national communications.

In the spirit of partnership, UNDP has a close working relationship with the GEF Secretariat and our partner implementing and executing agencies, as well as with the Climate Change Convention Secretariat.

UNDP is committed to assist developing countries to meet both the Millennium Development Goals and the challenges that global climate change presents. We firmly believe that climate change is one of the central development issues of our time and that achievement of the MDGs will not be possible unless climate related risks are significantly managed and reduced.

In conclusion, Mr. President and distinguished delegates, allow me to extend my thanks to the Government of Argentina for being such gracious hosts.

Thank you.