

**STATEMENT BY MR. WILLIAM P. MAYAKA, THE PERMANENT SECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES - KENYA, AT THE  
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE THIRD  
SESSION, CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES KYOTO 1 - 10 DECEMBER 1997.**

**Mr. President,  
Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I take this opportunity to convey my delegation's congratulations for your election as president of the Third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. I would also like to express my delegation's appreciation to the Government and people of Japan and the City of Kyoto for the warm reception and excellent facilities extended to the conference participants.

Mr. President, at the outset, my delegation fully supports the statement made yesterday by Hon. Bakari Mbonde, leader of Tanzanian delegation and the Chairman of the Group of 77 and China. However, I wish to highlight a few points.

At the Rio Summit five years ago, the international community recognised the need to address as a matter of urgency, the issue of global warming. The Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted unanimously and has subsequently been ratified by an overwhelming number of Governments.

The enthusiasm shown in Rio by the Contracting Parties gave a great deal of hope particularly to the developing countries. However, five years have now gone by, with very little progress in the implementation of the commitments.

Mr. President, the Rio Summit recognised the importance of sustainable development and the pressing need to address the issue of poverty alleviation in developing countries. To enable us to meet the obligations of the Convention, the flow of financial resources as well as transfer of technology from developed to developing countries were agreed upon as essential elements.

It is therefore important that this conference adopts a protocol that would strengthen commitments of developed country parties to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities, equity and respective capabilities. This would necessitate adoption of quantified reduction targets within specified time frames.

In so doing, Mr. President, we should be guided by the Berlin Mandate which made it clear that there would be no new commitments for Non-Annex I Parties. We consider it premature at this stage to make proposals on legally binding commitments for developing countries.

It is regrettable that for the last one week, not much has been achieved by the conference. However, it is my delegation's hope that the outstanding matters and particularly the Quantified

Emission Limitation and Reduction Objectives will be resolved in a sober and amicable way to give effect to the implementation of the convention.

My country is one of those that will be extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability, and a little test on our ability to adapt is currently on through the on-going short rains in Kenya that are associated with El Nino phenomenon. The rains are unexpectedly heavy and the resulting floods have caused considerable loss of human life and suffering, besides extensive destruction of infrastructure and property.

Mr. President,

Experts tell us that El Nino phenomenon is associated with anomalous sea surface warming in the Tropical Pacific ocean North West of South America and causes destabilisation of weather around the globe. One wonders whether global warming will not enhance the warming of the sea surface resulting in more severe El Nino occurrences.

The experts are also telling us that the current El Nino event during the short rains will most likely result in suppressed long rains in 1998. The possibility of another drought and therefore food shortage is eminent. Mr. President, we therefore need to act now to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to ensure among other things, that the severity of extreme weather events is reduced.

Mr. President,

Kenya is ready to fulfil her commitments under the Convention. We are currently implementing a UNDP/GEF capacity building project as an enabling activity to respond to our commitments under the Convention. In Kenya, we are determined to take all feasible measures to fulfil our commitments under the Convention, while at the same time endeavouring to tackle the problems of poverty alleviation and to achieve a sustainable economic growth. In consultation with the GEF and UNEP, we have set in motion the process of preparation of the initial national communications. This will enable us to address the pressing needs already identified.

Finally Mr. President, history will judge us harshly if this conference fails. We hold Planet Earth in trust for our children and future generations. We must therefore endeavour to leave it in a better state than we found it. This conference must not and should not fail.

Thank you.