Statement

by Mrs.Nino Chkhobadze, Minister of Environment
of Georgia to the Third Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework
Convention on the Climate Change, Kyoto, 1-10 December,1997

Thank you Mr. President,

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentleman,

Nearly one and half year has passed since the Second Conference of the Parties was held. The decisions taken at this session gave a new momentum to the policy of implementation of the principles of the Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the past period the draft documents, connected with the commitments to Convention and defined by the "Berlin Mandate", have been perfected sand prepared for our suggestion here in Kyoto and acceptance as a guideline.

The Government of Georgia is trying to do its best in the way of practical activities, defined by these documents. First of all this means the preparation of the National Communication to the CoP. Using the main result of the second assessment by the IPCC on the Climate Change process, we have managed to construct a convincing picture of climatic anomalies in our Region for the past century basing on our country's observational materials. The accomplishment of this complex work, which has been entirely subsidised from our country's budget, was aimed at the creation of an adequate basis for the successful implementation of UNDP/GEF-Government of Georgia joint project "Enabling Georgia to fulfill its commitments to the UNFCCC", especially in the direction of vulnerability assessments for different ecosystems and various branches of economy, for the working out of Mitigation and Adaptation strategies.

Under the National Climate Change Programme the preliminary inventory of GHG-s emissions and sinks has been undertaken, important works has been done for the vulnerability assessments in agriculture, water resources, the Black See coastal zone and natural ecosystems.

Now work has begun on the Mitigation analysis and the creation of an Action Plan, which will focus on the estimation of the impact of the realization of proposed actions on the economy of our country, its social life and natural environment.

It is to be stressed here that the State policy, based upon the principles of sustainable development will promote the limitation of GHG emissions.

This strategy is determined by the Decree of the President of Georgia issued in September 1997 concerning the development of renewable energy sources utilization in the country.

Georgia now is in a state of an energy crisis and for some years we are trying to get out of it. From the fossil fuel we are possessing only deposits of low-quality coal. But Georgia is rich with various sources of renewable energy, especially hydro- and geothermal energy.

At the present time as the efficient way of implementation of mitigation policy we consider the widening of geographical area and improvement of the mechanism of "Joint Implementation". For the same reason the cooperation between GEF and the developing countries and countries in transition must be progressed in a more efficient way. To achieve this goal it seems that Georgia and other countries with transitional economies have worked out a consensus. In particular, Georgia has submitted following proposals for the draft Protocol, prepared by the Berlin Group to the CoP:

1. Taking into account that Non-Annex parties consider economic development as a high priority measure, nevertheless they on a voluntary basis have to fulfil their commitments established in accordance with paragraph 4.1 (a) of the Framework Convention for the reduction of their emissions of greenhouse gases.
2. The commitments of Non-Annex Parties have to be realized by effective usage of the multilateral funding sources (such as Global Environment Fund, Multilateral Development Bank, etc.) and of the funding for the projects from participated in the project the Annex 1 parties. By means of above mentioned funds the Non-Annex I parties may implement their obligation to protect the Climate through the limitation and reduction of greenhouse gases emission.

Mr. President, dear colleagues,

The Government of Georgia fully recognizes, that Climate Change is one of the most profound challenges facing humanity. That is why it is supporting with all possible means every effort, aimed at the mitigation of this process and reasonable adaptation to its consequences. We hope that fruitful outcome of our meeting will make its share into the successful progress of mankinds in this direction.