

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
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Mme. President, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

At the beginning I want to express our gratitude to the Government of Argentina and to the City of Buenos Aires for hosting this Conference of the Parties and for the warm welcome. I would also like to congratulate you, Mme. President, for being elected president of the COP and for your wise guidance of the sessions.

Mme. President,  
our main task at this and following sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Climate Change is to put the Kyoto Protocol into life. That is to elaborate the mechanisms envisaged in the protocol to the operational level in order to facilitate concrete measures that will bring us to the aims that are set up in the FCCC.

This is certainly our urgent task, for, the world community is observing this meeting with great attention. And we cannot afford ourselves to leave this beautiful city without results that would mark a progress in the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. This protocol sets up a range of a relatively comprehensive mechanisms to achieve the aims. Thus one can easily understand that all divergences on these mechanisms cannot be resolved at once. However, we do need solid ground for the expectations that this will happen soon.

Mme. President,  
Slovenia has taken its obligation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8 % seriously. Our first task since Kyoto was to identify measures that will allow for

- stabilisation of the greenhouse gas emissions at the base year level which is 1986;
- and developing domestic actions to achieve emission reductions by 8 % in the first commitment period.

Slovenia has redesigned previously adopted CO<sub>2</sub> tax which gradually introduces sort of an internal CO<sub>2</sub> emission trading – to stabilise the emissions. It is important to stress that this tax has been elaborated together with private business sector. In less than a year we have been able to achieve an important consensus with industry on greenhouse gas emission stabilisation with further prospective for their reduction.

Slovenia has also taken further steps in increasing energy efficiency and in switching from coal to natural gas. In the field of renewables a successful project on the use of biomass, assisted by the GEF, is going on.

We are now preparing a comprehensive program on climate change, that will base primarily on the “non regret measures”. Nonetheless some big investments into a technological solutions will be needed to achieve the aims. Here we count on joint implementation and other mechanisms of the convention.

Mme. President,

Slovenia has signed the Protocol and appeals to those countries which haven't signed it yet to do so in the near future, and also to start the preparations to ratify it. It is important that Annex I countries take the lead in this process.

Thank you, Mme. President.