



## **THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA**

SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE (UNFCCC), THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS  
NOVEMBER 13 – 24, 2000

STATEMENT BY

MRS SUSAN WAFFA-OGOO  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR  
FISHERIES, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT

21 NOVEMBER 2000.

**Mr. President**

**Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC**

**Honourable Ministers and Colleagues**

**Distinguished Delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Firstly, May I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your appointment as President of the Sixth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Also, on behalf of the President of the Republic of The Gambia, His Excellency Alhaji Yahya A. J. J. Jammeh, I thank the Government and People of the Kingdom of The Netherlands for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in The Hague.

**Mr. President**

**Dear Colleagues**

Two years ago in Buenos Aires we agreed to and adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA). At this Sixth Session of COP we should ask what progress have we made towards the achievement of the objectives set forth in the Plan.

Up to the time of the High-level Consultations in Muiden we all agreed that there has been little progress. It is, therefore, time to prioritize our negotiations. Many Parties have criticized the Financial Mechanism of

the Convention. This needs to be treated with priority. So far no concrete actions have been taken by Annex I parties in meeting their commitments on financing the development and transfer of climate and environment friendly technologies to non-Annex I Parties. I therefore, urge our colleagues from the Developed world to continue with the negotiations in good faith so that COP-6 will end in the success we envisage.

*Mr. President*

*Excellencies and Colleagues*

Today, one of the most contentious issues is that of "SINKS". While The Gambia supports the non-inclusion of "Natural Sinks" in the CDM, it is convinced that land degradation should be addressed through the inclusion of appropriate Land-use change and forestry projects as measures to mitigate emissions of greenhouse gases or adapt to climate change. In any case, we still contend that domestic action should be the primary means of fulfilling commitments. We also welcome the interim and Prompt start of the CDM and the development and promotion of a "Positive List" of non-contentious, credible renewable energy and demand-side technologies for the CDM.

On Capacity Building, we share the view that assessment of needs should not be used as an excuse to delay action on those needs that have already been identified. The special needs and concerns of the LDCs as contained in the Report of the Geneva Workshop, which convened last month, should be clearly articulated in decisions under Articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the Convention and Article 3.14 of the Kyoto Protocol which are

dear to developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries.

On Compliance, The Gambia supports the position of the G77 and China on the establishment of one Compliance Body with two branches, which should reflect geographic distribution. We also support the view that financial penalties should be linked to a Compliance Fund.

*Your Excellencies*

*Dear Colleagues*

Although, the output of the Copenhagen Workshop on Best Practices on Policies and Measures has fulfilled relevant BAPA requirements, there is need at this COP to adopt decisions that will minimize the potential impacts of Annex I policy measures on developing country Parties, particularly the Least Developed Countries.

Finally, judging from the importance and seriousness attached to this problem by all of us, I am optimistic that some positive results will emanate from COP-6. We should all work harder at making this a reality and with further determination we shall certainly succeed.

In conclusion, I urge all Parties to ratify the Kyoto Protocol prior to RIO + 10 in two years time.

I thank you all for your kind attention.