

NIGERIA
11.12.03

STATEMENT BY MR. BALA MANDE, NIGERIA'S MINISTER OF
ENVIRONMENT AT THE ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION DURING THE NINTH
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC),
MILAN, ITALY, 11 DECEMBER 2003.

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE NO. 3

Mr. President, my delegation will like to add its voice in thanking you and the Italian Government for the facilities you have provided and for your effort towards making COP – 9 a success.

Mr. President, for us as developing countries, to further fulfill our obligations under the Climate Change Convention, implementation of Article 4.7 of the Convention by the developed countries becomes inevitable.

You will also agree with me Mr. President that developing countries are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, but also are least able to put in place adaptation measures, which are critical to their survival.

All these are suggestive of the needs of the developing countries in terms of financial resources, development and transfer of technology; and capacity building among others in order to face the challenges posed by the threats of climate change impacts to our survival.

Mr. President, it was the realization of this that warranted the proposal for establishing the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) in addition to the Fund available under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) during the 6th Conference of Parties held in The Hague, Netherlands. We had several times, before now, acknowledged the roles played by our negotiating partners, especially the European Union (EU), in supporting us during several days of negotiations and eventual adoption of the SCCF in Marrakech. This, we all knew, was one of the success stories of 'Bonn Declaration' and the 'Marrakech Accord'.

Mr. President, what we observed here in the last couple of days during our further discussions on the SCCF indicates to us that the romance is over between us and our negotiating partners. We are aware that most of the issues we have already agreed to, and as contained in 'Bonn Declaration' 'Marrakech Accord' and 'Delhi Declaration' were re-opened for negotiation. Consequently, this has slowed down the process and the progress that would have been otherwise made. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation, at its last sitting, referred the matter to you for further consideration.

Mr. President, we are rapidly approaching the end of this session. Yet, we do not want to depart Milan with a feeling of hopelessness regarding the future of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. We strongly believe that we can still achieve something before we depart this Gold City of Milan. This we can do by providing adequate political momentum since our negotiators have failed to reach a compromise on the issue.

We want concrete and positive decision adopted at this session with regard to EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND.

Not only this Mr. President, we equally request the decision to indicate predictable and adequate levels of the Funding in order for the developing countries to make progress in implementing the Climate Change Convention nationally, regionally and internationally.

Mr. President, May I through you respectfully urge our esteemed colleagues Mrs. Margaret Beckett of the United Kingdom and Triffin of Germany to intervene on our behalf to save the special Climate Change Fund.

Mr. President, in conclusion, my delegation believes that a major criterion of the success of COP – 9, will hinge on the adoption of a decision for prompt implementation of the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF). We urge you to ensure this.

I Thank you, Mr. President.