

TURKEY

Madam Chair,
Honourable Ministers, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to have this opportunity to address such a distinguished audience at such a historic event and I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the government and the people of Argentina for hosting this conference.

As a country contributing to all international efforts for the protection of the environment in accordance with the principle of sustainable development, Turkey also aims to actively participate in the ongoing global efforts to minimise the negative impacts of climate change.

Following the decision taken in the 7th Conference of the Parties held in Marrakech in 2001, to delete Turkey from Annex-II of the UNFCCC and to invite Parties to recognise the special circumstances of Turkey compared to other Annex-I Parties, Turkey became a Party to the Convention on 24th May 2004.

In this context and in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, Turkey is ready to fulfil its responsibilities under the Convention and to implement policies and take the necessary measures to this end.

Ankara Climate Change Conference was held in Ankara in September 2004 with the aim of enhancing cooperation and raising public awareness on the issue, so it demonstrates that Turkey gives great importance on the concerns of climate change.

Madam Chair,

Turkey generates an important part of its electricity from co-generation power plants which being operated on high efficiency and natural gas fuels. We also encourage investors to establish co-generation power plants. On the other hand Turkey has large amount of renewable energy resources. For the time being we produce 25% of our electricity demand from those resources, including hydropower.

Increasing energy efficiency and maximising the use of clean energy resources is essential to ensure global climate security. In this context, considerable investments are being made to further increase the share of renewable sources, including hydropower, in energy production.

Furthermore, energy saving in industrial and residential sectors constitutes a priority for Turkey.

To this end, laws on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency have been prepared.

Finally, Turkey has signed a contract with UNIDO for the establishment of an International Centre for Hydrogen Energy Technologies. This Centre has already become operational. In this context, I would like to take this opportunity to invite all Parties to the First International Energy Congress and Exhibition to be held in Istanbul Turkey on 13-15 July 2005.

Thank you.