

**OPENING STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. ARIZAL EFFENDI
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP 77 AND CHINA
BEFORE THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO
THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Buenos Aires, 12 November 1998

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madame President
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government and the people of the Republic of Argentina, and to the City of Buenos Aires, for hosting this Conference, and for the warm welcome and hospitality that have been extended to us.

I would also like to congratulate you, Madame President, upon your election as President of this 4th Meeting of the Conference of Parties. We are confident that, under your guidance and wise leadership, our conference will be successful in moving forward the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Madame President,

Six years ago, in Rio de Janeiro, the Convention was opened for signature. Three years later, in Berlin, we began the difficult task of implementing the Convention. We took a big step in Kyoto last year, to adopt a Protocol in response to the need to render adequate the commitments of developed country Parties to this Convention.

The Conference of the Parties, as supreme body of this Convention, meets this year to continue the work of reviewing the implementation of the Convention, including, as mandated by the Convention, the second review of adequacy of commitments of developed country Parties.

To this end, the Group of 77 and China at this 4th Meeting will focus its work on the continued implementation of the Convention and the COP's decisions, in particular in the areas of transfer of technology, the financial mechanism, the implementation of Articles 4.8 and 4.9 of the Convention, and the consideration of national communications.

As supreme body of the Convention, the COP will also examine the implementation of decisions on matters related to the Kyoto Protocol. The Group of 77 and China maintains that the work on all matters related to the Protocol, in particular the mechanisms of that Protocol, remains the sole prerogative of the COP. No other body, even at the behest of a UN entity, can assign a role that it is desirous of undertaking to itself on these mechanisms. We strongly reiterate our position that work on the mechanisms should be carried out by bodies

outside the Convention, including UN agencies and international financial institutions, only upon our specific request.

Madame President

Increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases due to anthropogenic emissions continue to threaten the long-term survival of the global climate. The recent El Nino episode has raised our awareness of the vulnerability of our countries to climate variations. The adverse effects of climate change have already taken hold in all developing countries, in many cases with the most severe consequences. Developing countries are doing as much as they can to respond to these adverse effects. However, much more urgent needs to be done, particularly in respect of adaptation measures. The Group of 77 and China will continue to work for immediate and more focused action on programmes of technology transfer which give weight to adaptation technologies, and for the requisite financial policies and assistance for adaptation measures.

Madame President,

We are all aware that the emission reduction and limitation targets for developed country Parties reached in Kyoto fall far short of what science has prescribed in order to avert serious climate change. These targets are even way below the 20% target proposed by the Group of 77 and China in Kyoto. And yet, pressure is placed upon developing countries to undertake activities through overseas compliance mechanisms to achieve these targets, even before demonstrable proof of domestic action is made. We would need to ensure that the targets are achieved in the Protocol primarily through national action. There are important contributions made by the Group of 77 and China in the Kyoto Protocol, as reflected in its Articles 10, 11 and 12. Involvement of the Group in the work of the Kyoto Protocol will take all these Articles fully into account.

The Group of 77 and China will continue to work at this Meeting along the lines of the step-by-step approach we have taken on the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol and will pursue this approach in the subsidiary bodies. As mandated in the decisions of the COP, we will prepare for the first meeting of the COP serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, and for this, we call for its early entry into force.

Madame President,

The Group of 77 and China pursues the implementation of their commitments under the Convention. We have, as we have previously demonstrated, done more than our share under the Convention to address climate change and its adverse effects, to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, in pursuit of sustainable development, fully within the context of the

principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. We hope to work during this 4th meeting to advance together in this objective.

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to assure you of our full support in the accomplishment of the difficult tasks before us, and to work closely with you in assuring a successful conference, which, we are proud to note, is the first one held by this Convention in a country belonging to the Group.

Thank you, Madame President.

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