

**4th CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

STATEMENT TO PLENARY BY PROF. JOSE GUERREIRO SILVA,
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Madam President,

Distinguished Delegates

I have the honor to address to the 4th Conference of the Parties, on behalf of the Portuguese Government.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Presidency for the engagement to facilitate the conditions required for the success of this Conference. And, let me assure you that should not be an easy task after the high expectations created by the Kyoto Conference.

Coming into the substance, I would like to reinforce how vital and important are the results that we have to achieve in this Conference, which we have to consider as one further step to minimize the effects on global warming.

The historical decision taken by the Kyoto Conference created a framework, which requires to all Governments to take further appropriate measures aiming to curve the long-term trends of greenhouse gases emissions and, at the same time, to ensure a harmonious and sustainable development.

The fundamental task we need to undertake today, in this Conference, is to maintain and improve the *momentum* of Kyoto, by seeking agreement on the different issues included both in the Convention and in the Protocol. In order to allow steps forward to achieve the expected results, the further elaboration of the mechanisms, a strong monitoring and compliance system are essential.

As regards the mechanisms referred in the Protocol we recognize that for their own operationally there is a need of principles, modalities, rules, guidelines and mainly, accurate methods of verifying its implementation.

Portugal shares the European Union commitment on global warming issues as a primary aim, and fully supports the statement made by Austrian Federal Minister for the Environment, Mr. Martin Bartenstein, on behalf of the European Community

In this context, and taking into account its specific characteristics when compared to the majority of other developed countries, Portugal is also committed to develop integrated national measures in the most relevant economical sectors, aiming to maintain one of the lowest levels of emission in the European Union.

Among others, the domestic measures aiming to limit greenhouse gases emissions includes:

- Diversification of energy sources and fuel in the sectors of electricity production, industry and transports;
- Energy efficiency in the same economical sectors and in housing activities;
- Voluntary agreements with industry for greening activities and for energy saving, verified by specific bodies;

- Increase of the use of renewable energy sources; and
- Increase the carbon storage in forests by reforestation and reorientation of the land use activities, and also by taking the appropriate measures to prevent forest fires.

To promote these various actions and in order to obtain a better integration, intersectoral measures are implemented by an intergovernmental body to assure a high level of political support and fulfill the Portuguese share of the European Union commitment under the Kyoto Protocol.

Mechanisms, in our view, can be used as an important element in order to supplement national measures and domestic actions.

As regards developing countries Parties, particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and considering the traditional links with the speaking Portuguese African countries in the framework of the CPLP (Community of Speaking Portuguese Countries), Portugal expects that the potentialities of the Clean Development Mechanism could be used to stimulate the technical assistance, transfer of technology and capacity building in a partnership approach.

We are convinced that this mechanism is the appropriate mean to promote environmentally sound projects, sought they enable the creation and implementation of a set of indicators adequate to evaluate the execution and real local capacity for sustainability of the projects.

Madam President, distinguished delegates

The equilibrium of the climate system is of vital importance.

In the long term and in order to reverse the existing trend on global warming, countries and international community must participate and contribute to the mitigation of climate change.

Also the exchange of experiences between NGO's and the support to its activities, is a main goal in order to increase public awareness all over the World.

Developed countries, as major contributors to global emissions, are concentrating efforts to answer to this challenge, requiring major mitigation actions.

It's our responsibility to take the necessary steps to ensure that the sustainability of our society requires a deep change of the consumption and production patterns.

It's our main goal to leave to the next generation the richest heritage of all, this means life.

Thank you very much.