

*Embajada del Reino  
de Arabia Saudí  
Buenos Aires*



مملكة العربية السعودية  
بيوتنا بيتك

ADDRESS BY H.E. ENGINEER ALI I. AL- NAIMI,  
MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES  
AND HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE **KINGDOM OF  
SAUDI ARABIA**, AT THE 4TH SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE U.N. CONVENTION  
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 2 to 13, 1998

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I wish to express, on behalf of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, my sincere respects and congratulations to the Government and the people of the Republic of Argentina, for hosting this major event, and for its display of effective organization and support. I also wish to reiterate the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's solidarity with the international community in its quest for the means and resources to guarantee the protection of the environment.

I would like to emphasize that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whose development is relatively recent, has taken environmental aspects into account in all aspects of socio-economic

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



مُتَوَكِّلًا عَلَى اللَّهِ الْعَزِيزِ الْمُهَيْمِنِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

development, including conscientious use of various natural sources available to promote sustainable development.

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia participated actively in the preparation of the Convention for Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol; at that time we expressed our willingness to cooperate in the development of both documents, stating that we cannot assume commitments that exceed our responsibilities as a developing country, in accordance with the common but differentiated responsibility.

Likewise, we deem that the measures to be adopted by Annex I countries, that deal with the fulfillment of their commitments pursuant to the Convention and the Protocol, must be comprehensive and non discriminatory in so far as our exports of fossil fuel, especially petroleum, are concerned, as they are our main source of revenue.

Similarly, we hope that the industrialized countries will cooperate with us, in accordance with the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol Provisions, to prevent the bias against petroleum, existing in those countries, as reflected by the high taxes on oil and its by-products, by the subsidies and tax exemptions granted to other energy sources and by the incentives to increase their own domestic and / or



regional production of fossil fuel at the expense of their oil imports from our developing countries.

And allow me, Madam President, to call on the member countries to consider the need to make equal progress in all fields of the program, especially in those topics of interest to the developing countries.

Madam President,

My country's delegation will not accept any attempt to compel the developing countries to undertake specific commitments under the name of "Voluntary Commitments", due to the fact that neither the Convention, nor the Kyoto Protocol, make any mention of them; on the contrary, both documents do take into consideration such countries' predicament and their priorities of combating poverty and attaining an appropriate level of economic and social development.

We call upon the industrialized countries' to fulfill their commitments, especially as regards transfer of technology and extending financial assistance to the developing countries, so as to assist them in limiting their greenhouse gas emissions and in implementing response measures to adapt to climate change.

Before concluding this address, I would like to emphasize the need for a sound and well-thought development of flexibility mechanisms policies, especially the trade of emissions, deemed by the



international community to be clear and equitable. In any event, the commitments to be implemented through such policies shall be complementary, but not essential, to the measures to be adopted by Annex I countries, at the domestic level.

Madam President,

We wish to request the Governmental Scientific Organizations, such as the IPCC, to strive to reduce the major scientific uncertainty still existing on possible climate change, and the need to take account of the different scientific views that exist, so that the governments of member countries have a clear understanding of the course to be followed and lessen the current hesitation about fulfilling their commitments.

Likewise, in the following stage we must focus on the development of technologies to help absorb carbon dioxide from fossil fuels, thus leading to the attainment of the objectives of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol without affecting our countries' vital interests.

Finally, we reiterate our confidence in the existence of a genuine area of understanding amongst all the parties to the Conference with a view to attaining the desired objective.

Thank you.