

**Statement by H. E. Mr. Liu Jiang**  
**Head of the Chinese Delegation**  
**Minister and Vice-Chairman of**  
**State Development Planning Commission of China**  
**At the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC**

Mr. President,

First of all, on behalf of the Chinese Delegation, let me extend my congratulations to you on your election as the President of this Conference. I believe that under your capable leadership, with devoted endeavor of all Parties, this Conference would be crowned with success.

Mr. President,

This Conference is a grand gathering at the turning of the centuries. What attitude should we take towards the challenge of climate change? This is a major question we are facing now. We adopted the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change eight years ago, the Kyoto Protocol three years ago. Their adoption is the significant achievement of the international community in combating climate change. Nevertheless, attempts have been made to drop the Convention and Protocol and start something new. This will do nothing but destroy our campaign to fight climate change and dampen the ardent aspiration of international community. Our only correct choice is to follow the guidance of the principles and objectives of the Convention and sail down the course open by the Protocol firmly. For this reason, this Conference must be a success.

We are pleased to have noticed that the European Union has set the goal at the 5th Conference of the Parties to bring the Protocol into force in 2002. We would like to joint all Parties in their efforts to turn this goal into reality.

Mr. President,

One of our indicators for the success of the Conference is that the Conference will faciliatate the early entry into force of the Protocol. Negotiations on key issues under the Protocol must complete in satisfaction. The establishment of the three mechanisms will allow the Annex I countries to reduce emissions overseas so that their domestic economic pressures are eased. However, the emissions

reduction overseas shall only be supplemental to their domestic actions. The Clean Development Mechanism must satisfy its two-fold purpose to become a win-win mechanism for both developed and developing countries. The Compliance System will provide a necessary supervising and enforcing regime for the implementation of the Protocol. While its primary objective is to promote compliance, it also needs certain mandatory consequences, which should be applicable only to countries with GHGs reduction commitments. The composition of the compliance body must be based on the principle of equitable geographic distribution. We should take the issue of carbon sinks with sufficient caution. In this respect environmental integrity must be the yardstick in judging all the related scientific uncertainties. The allowed scale of sinks activities, as well as the methodologies and guidelines for calculating carbon sequestration must be adopted by the COP/moP.

Mr. President,

Another sign for the Conference to be successful is whether it will promote the effective implementation of the Convention and build an effective channel for developed and developing countries to cooperate.

To pursue the cooperation we must be guided by the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities". To confuse the different responsibilities between developed and developing countries, to impose new obligations on the latter and even take this as a condition for the Protocol's ratification, will lead to nothing but fierce political confrontations. This, undoubtedly, is a catastrophe for the international community in their efforts to combat climate change.

The problems caused by climate change can only be tackled through sincere cooperation between developed and developing countries and through a significant increase of the economic, scientific and technological ability in developing countries. We have noticed with concern that the gap, in terms of both income and science and technology, between South and North is becoming wider and wider, which seriously limits the capacity of developing countries to respond to climate change. The sincere cooperation, therefore, is contingent on the substantial progress on issues such as technology transfer, financial support and the special needs of developing countries, and on the establishment of necessary mechanisms to ensure that developing countries' ability to handle climate change issues is definitely enhanced. Developed countries should, by

taking concrete actions, show their sincerity in meeting their obligations under the Convention in respect of technology transfer and providing financial assistance to developing countries. The situation "all thunder and no storm" must be ended.

Mr. President,

It should be noted that since the Convention entered into force, a large number of developing countries have taken various measures within their capacity to tackle climate change. China is a developing country with the largest population in the world and low level of income. In 1999 China's per capita GDP was only US\$786 and 34 million of her population earned less than US\$75 a year. While poverty eradication and economic development is the first priority of the country, the Chinese government still attaches great importance to the question of climate change.

In recent years, governments at all levels in China have undertaken enormous work in addressing climate change problems and achieved remarkable record: 1) Increase of energy use efficiency. Compared with 1990, the energy consumption per 10,000 yuan ( US\$1,200 ) GDP in 1999 has dropped by 50%; 2) Active development of high quality energy, improvement of energy structure. Compared with 1990, the share of coal in total primary energy consumption in 1999 has decreased by 9.1 percentage points; 3) Encouraging the use of new and renewable energy. The utilization of new and renewable energy such as biomass, solar, wind and geothermal energy in rural and remote areas are supported by the government. In 1999, the total annual consumption of all forms of new and renewable energy was over 300 Mtce; 4) Afforestation promotion. Since 1990 up to now, 52.73 Mha of afforestation areas have been created. The above-mentioned actions of China have resulted in large amount of GHG emission reduction and made tremendous contributions to the fulfillment of the Convention objectives. These accomplishments are also acknowledged and appreciated by the international community.

The Chinese government has made environmental protection and sustainable development as its fundamental state policies. Ecological preservation, environmental protection and sustainable development will enjoy paramount priority in both the great western region development planning and the ongoing formulation of the Tenth Five-Year National Economic and Social Development Plan.

Mr. President,

International cooperation is based on sincerity and good faith. We hope that all the State Parties will, in strict conformity with the principles and spirit of the Convention, create an atmosphere for cooperation and the full implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. Let us make this Conference a success by facilitating the early entry into force of the Protocol, with a view to fully implementing the Convention and the Protocol. Let us make this Conference a good start and step into the new century hand in hand with a fresh spirit.

Thank you, Mr. President.