

STATEMENT
BY
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MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES
THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

Buenos Aires, 12 November 1998

Honourable president,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen;

It is an honour and a privilege for me to address the fourth conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. First of all, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express my appreciation to the people and the Government of Argentina for the hospitality extended to us.

Our participation in the conference is on the basis that our development priorities are supported by the implementation of the convention, particularly as stipulated in Article 4.8 and 4.9 of the convention. Although our contribution to the global greenhouse gas emissions is negligible, we have been taking several measures to fulfill the objectives of the convention in our domestic activities. We also expect the developed countries, whose historical and current emission levels are high, to seriously take their commitments and responsibilities as a priority in their domestic actions. This is very important for us, as the Climate Change issue will squarely affect our fragile economies and livelihood.

We believe poverty is the worst form of environmental degradation. The determination to combat poverty and associated problems on the basis of the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol is a process in the right direction. Therefore we are eagerly awaiting and ready to participate in its implementation. However any effort to link it to other issues, new concepts outside the principles outlined in the convention, will only slow the progress of the negotiations and undermine the outcome of this conference. This is very serious, and request our partners from developed countries to genuinely contribute to the rapid progress of the conference and show tangible results to fulfil their commitments, including the transfer of technology.

Madame President, *(in Chairman)*

The adverse climatic catastrophes encountered by many countries in the last two years, including that of hurricane Mitch, are signals as to what the effect of climate change could cause. Most people are asking whether these anomalies are linked to global warming resulting from human activities. Support to global systematic observations, enhanced monitoring and scientific research are essential to explore answers to these questions and minimize uncertainties associated with the climate issue. The

decisions taken on this issue during the last two weeks of negotiations is most welcomed, and we urge all concerned to make maximum effort to its implementation on the spirit of cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that we are ready and willing to contribute to the implementation of the climate convention and its subsequent decisions. We need concrete support to our effort from the industrialized countries so that the path we follow to undertake our development priorities does not repeat the mistake done in the last century.

I thank you, Madame President.