

STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT OF ITALY
H.E. EDO RONCHI
(COP - 3, Kyoto 10 December 1997)

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

May I first congratulate the Government of Japan on hosting the third Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the ancient capital of Japan and thank the Japanese people for their very warm welcome and extremely kind hospitality.

My colleague, Minister Lahure, took the floor yesterday on behalf of the European Union.

Italy fully supports the position of the European Union and is confident that we are here to negotiate an agreement in order not to put an unbearable debt on the shoulders of the generations to come.

We are not damaging a single piece of land in a single country. For the first time in history human kind is making sick an entire planet.

Mr. President,

The earth is feverish, its fever increases the temperature of the planet, it represents a serious danger. In Italy important coastal zones and historic towns of art, like Venice, are at risk.

We should share confidence and responsibility. We cannot delude the expectations we contributed to rise. The place to act is here, it is Kyoto. The time to act is now.

To a large extent progress and innovation aim toward a more efficient use of resources, an increase of available information, a reduction in the use of non renewable resources.

We do not have to foresee sacrifices and renounces. We have to invest intelligence, research and resources in a new technologic and industrial revolution, in an improvement of consumption and living patterns, with the aim to live better and to use less non renewable resources, starting with fossil fuels.

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J.E. DI NOBILI
(COP - 2 Room 19 December 1997)

In this common effort additional financial resources are also needed. But first and foremost we should make a better use of the resources already available. Which is why the action of the World Bank and of the other International Financial Institutions should only be directed toward sustainable development.

The most industrialized countries should be the first to find an agreement on the reduction targets of greenhouse gases.

This agreement should not be at the lowest possible level, should not grant privileges. It should be a fair agreement, that allows to adequately address the risk of climate change.

A strong agreement that gives a strong impetus to the reduction of the emission of greenhouse gases is required to confront this risk. Italy is striving to give its contribution to reach this agreement.

Mr. President,

Italy shut down through a popular referendum all its nuclear power plants and decided not to open new nuclear power plants for environment and security reasons.

Italy, a highly industrialized country although without nuclear power, has pro capita CO2 emissions lower than the european average.

The italian Government approved last week a challenging program finalized to the reduction by 7 per cent of its national greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 level by the year 2010.

The program entails in particular:

- development of renewable energy up to 7900 Mega Watt;
- enhancement of rail transport and local public transportation;
- promotion of low consumption vehicles and appliances;
- increase energy efficiency of electric power plants

The global investment for this program amounts to nearly 50 billion US dollars in the next 13 years.

These investments will definitely modify the structure of the final uses of energy.

These investments will also provide remarkable and longlasting economic advantages and energy savings.

It is our opinion that, if the most industrialized countries will contribute to the adoption at this Conference of a fair and effective agreement, the support of the public opinion to the italian program will be ample.

Mr.President,

It is inevitable that when taking such a decision, some people will defend specific and onesided interest and thereby seek to prevent that common interest prevail.

To these people I would propose to answer with words of a great italian poet.

And I quote Dante Alighieri in the Divina Commedia:

" Sta come torre fermo, che non crolla gia' mai la cima per soffiar dei venti".

We must be confident when taking an important decision. It cannot be affected by the wavering blowing of the winds.

Thank you, Mr.President