

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE SECRETARIAT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF ARGENTINA, ENG. MARÍA JULIA ALSOGARAY, AT COP 5 (BONN, 25 OCTOBER-5 NOVEMBER 1999)

ARGENTINA WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES THAT IT IS NOW PREPARED TO ADOPT A VOLUNTARY TARGET TO REDUCE ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION GROWTH RATE, FULFILLING PRESIDENT'S MENEM PLEDGE AT COP4.

SO WE HAVE COME TO THIS FORUM TO ANNOUNCE THE SET OF POLICIES AND MEASURES THAT WILL ENABLE US TO ASSUME THE 'COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED' RESPONSIBILITIES DERIVED FROM OUR RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION.

WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT DOING THIS WE WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CREATE MORE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL.

WE CALL ON THE PARTIES TO: i) ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO ACCEPT ARGENTINA'S VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT AND ii) TO CREATE A BRIDGE TO THE CONVENTION THAT WOULD ALLOW ARGENTINA AND OTHER NON-ANNEX I COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE KYOTO MECHANISMS.

LET ME STATE CLEARLY: ARGENTINA DOES NOT INTEND TO ABANDON ITS STATUS AS A NON - ANNEX I COUNTRY.

TWO FUNDAMENTAL FACTORS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR THE DEFINITION OF THIS TARGET. FIRST, THAT IT DOES NOT BECOME AN OBSTACLE FOR THE COUNTRY'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND, SECOND, THAT THE TARGET SHOULD BE CREDIBLE, BASED ON A SOUND, TECHNICAL FOUNDATION AND NOT MEANT TO PRODUCE SO-CALLED "HOT AIR".

THE TASK PERFORMED WAS BASED ON FOUR ISSUES:

- * 1. THE 1997 GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY WAS FULLY ELABORATED, AND THE INVENTORIES FOR THE YEARS 1990 AND 1994 WERE UPDATED AND REVIEWED, IN ORDER TO DETERMINE A BASELINE AND BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT A PROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS;
- * 2. A PROJECTION TO THE YEAR 2012 WAS MADE OF THE EMISSIONS THAT WOULD RESULT SHOULD ARGENTINA NOT ADOPT ANY EXPLICIT MITIGATION MEASURES. THIS STUDY WAS DONE UPON THE BASIS OF MACROECONOMIC PROJECTIONS AND SPECIFIC PROJECTIONS FOR THE SECTORS ACKNOWLEDGED AS HAVING A KEY INFLUENCE ON EMISSIONS;
- * 3. SOME OF THE POSSIBLE MITIGATION MEASURES WERE ASSESSED, AS WELL AS THEIR ASSOCIATED COSTS; AND FINALLY,

* 4. BASED ON THE AFORESAID, DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES WERE ANALYZED REGARDING THE *TYPE* AND *LEVEL* OF THE TARGET TO BE ADOPTED.

THEREFORE, ARGENTINA NOW ASSUMES A VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT NOT TO EXCEED A PREDETERMINED AMOUNT IN ITS NET ANTHROPOGENIC EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES.

THIS EMISSIONS TARGET IS DYNAMIC IN ITS DESIGN AND TIED TO OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT.

WE PROJECT TO ACHIEVE DURING THE PERIOD 2008 – 2012 AN EFFECTIVE REDUCTION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND OF ITS INTENSITY, COMPARED TO THOSE THAT WOULD EMERGE IN A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL SCENARIO, NOT CONSIDERING MITIGATION MEASURES. THIS REDUCTION IS ESTIMATED TO BE BETWEEN A 2 TO 10% BELOW BUSINESS-AS-USUAL.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE MITIGATION MEASURES THAT THE ADOPTION OF THIS TARGET IMPLIES WILL ALSO HAVE THE ANCILLARY EFFECT OF REDUCING THE CONCENTRATIONS OF LOCAL POLLUTANTS WHICH WILL, IN TURN, RESULT IN BENEFITS DERIVED FROM AN ENHANCED ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND, CONSEQUENTLY, THE REDUCTION OF HEALTH COSTS.

IT WILL ALSO GIVE US THE POSSIBILITY TO BROADEN OUR POTENTIAL TO RECEIVE AN INFLOW OF INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AS WELL AS TO OBTAIN THE ADDITIONAL PROFIT THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE LOCAL PRIVATE SECTOR BEING ABLE TO REDUCE ITS EMISSIONS, AND TRADE THESE REDUCTIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

WE BELIEVE THIS CLAIM IS IN ARGENTINA'S SELF INTEREST, WILL ADD MOMENTUM TO THE PROCESS OF FULFILLING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CONVENTION AND CONSTITUTES OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE OF THOSE REGIONS MOST AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, PARTICULARLY, THE SMALL ISLAND STATES.

UPON THE BASIS OF ALL THE AFOREMENTIONED, WE NOW PRESENT TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES THIS VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT, EXPECTING IT WILL RECEIVE ITS DUE ASSESSMENT BY THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE CONVENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.