

**Statement by Senator Marina Silva, Minister of the Environment of Brazil, at  
the High-Level Segment of the Tenth Session of the Conference of the  
Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

**Ministerial Panel 2: "Impacts of climate change, adaptation measures and  
sustainable development"**

Mr. / Madam Chairperson,

First of all, I should like to congratulate you on your designation to preside over the work of this panel and reaffirm Brazil's commitment to the strengthening of multilateral fora to face the challenge of climate change. I should also like to congratulate the quality of the work carried out by our Argentinean brothers in organizing this Conference.

The issue of climate change is of the utmost importance to Brazil. We are concerned about the impacts on sectors that are strategic for us such as agriculture, ecosystems and coastal zones. We are also worried about events in developing countries such as tornados, floods, and droughts with serious social, economic and environmental consequences, some of which will be irreversible, particularly in the poorer nations.

At the same time, we must recognize that little has been accomplished in terms of concrete actions in the field of adaptation to climate change, notwithstanding the consensus existing today on its importance and the impacts of extreme weather events that are already being felt.

The issue of adaptation is accepted today as an element of the positive agenda of the climate change regime. Although the populations of developing countries are the ones most vulnerable to this phenomenon, adaptation involves an

ethical commitment both from the countries that have emission reduction targets and from the developing countries.

Mr. / Madam Chairperson,

The moment we are living in requires overcoming old impasses and building balanced policies that address the issue of adaptation both to the more immediate impacts as well as to those more distant ones.

A strategy for future action in the area of adaptation should be approached from two angles: understanding of the climate change phenomenon and its impacts and definition of effective lines of action to address the problem.

One of the major scientific challenges of today is forecasting future impacts of climate change. Although the information on climate evolution on a global scale is still limited, the degree of uncertainty is even higher in the poorer regions of the planet, because of the absence of extensive studies of the evolution of climate in those regions.

Overcoming this problem involves another of the great challenges for the future progress of the regime: development of far reaching scientific and technological cooperation under the Convention.

Several developing countries have promoted efforts in the area of adaptation, but they are small in comparison to the size of the problem. It is necessary to identify support mechanisms, particularly financial ones, in order to foster partnerships of this nature, with a view to creating a network of research centers in climate science in the developing countries, providing the support required for adaptation measures.

Mr. / Madam Chairperson,

Vulnerability and adaptation should be addressed objectively, particularly by developing models that take into account the needs of developing countries. Participation of experts and scientists is crucial to this effort, as is institutional strengthening in developing countries.

Modeling vulnerability scenarios must be associated to other measures for the conservation of the environment. In this regard, I should like to emphasize the endeavors to drastically reduce deforestation. These actions are based on a management system, coordinated by the highest level of the Brazilian Government, capable of maximizing the benefits of sustainable use of these areas and promoting the fair distribution of economic benefits, with transparency and social control.

Nevertheless, Mr./Madam Chairperson, the efforts of developing countries to protect their ecosystems may be annulled by the lack of commitment with the decisions we have taken in the past under this Convention. Practically nothing has been done up to now, not only in the sense of evaluating and understanding the impacts of climate change on vulnerable ecosystems such as rain forests, but also in the adoption of concrete measures that support the developing countries to adapt to these impacts. In this case, the consequence of inaction is the substantive loss of biological diversity, roundly denounced in other international fora by the very countries that are here today.

The issue of adaptation to climate change must be seen beyond the approach of environmental emergencies. Some of the projected climate changes will take decades to conclude, and it is for this very reason that they cannot be reduced to emergencies.

Mr. / Madam Chairperson,

There is no time left to waste. In fact, much time has gone by without any significant efforts being made in the issues we are now discussing. It seems clear

that those most affected by climate change – the developing countries – are not having their needs recognized by those that not only have the most responsibility for these impacts but are the ones that have the most capacity to mitigate and study them and promote the required adaptation measures. Nor does it seem that there has been any awareness of the principle enshrined in this Convention that states that responsibilities are common but differentiated.

I am concerned about the manner in which some countries have been able to delay or hinder negotiations to cater to their immediate, merely economic, interests. The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol is auspicious; nevertheless we cannot forget how long it took for this instrument to become a reality and the consequences that ensued from this delay. We cannot have the same expectations for the climate change adaptation measures. It is time to prove, not to ourselves, but to those who we are representing here, that we are more committed than the results of our actions until now have shown. We cannot allow ourselves to fail!

Thank you very much.

**10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate Change  
Panel on "The Convention After 10 Years: Accomplishments and Future Challenges"**

Buenos Aires, December 15, 2004

**Draft speech of Minister Eduardo Campos**

Mr. Moderator,  
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present the Brazilian view on the accomplishments and challenges of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, which now reaches its tenth anniversary. First, I would like to express the Brazilian Government's satisfaction in the fact that the first decade of the Convention, along with the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, will be celebrated in Argentina, a kindred country and a privileged partner of Brazil.

In his speech at the opening of the United Nations General Assembly this past September, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva reiterated the Brazilian Government commitment to the success of the international regime on climate change and, in particular, to the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. I wish to remark that President Lula expressed his satisfaction to President Vladimir Putin, in his recent visit to Brasilia, with the decision of the Russian Federation to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, thus allowing for its entry into force.

Trust in the principles of multilateralism and in the search for collective solutions is the key to assess the accomplishments and to address the challenges of climate change on Earth. Such challenges do not recognize political, cultural or geographical boundaries, nor do they select places to materialize. But its impacts are certainly more severe and visible in countries where the response capacity is more limited.

In the evaluation of the Brazilian Government, there were great advances in the international sphere in these ten first years of the Convention. We created the legal and technical frameworks and the discussion and decision fora. The commitments and their modes of implementation are clearly outlined. The entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol next February is the most evident achievement of this period. The Kyoto Protocol is the key piece of the climate change regime and its implementation is fundamental to addressing the challenges that the future holds.

The developing countries expressed their commitment and their willingness to contribute, through participating in Clean Development Mechanism projects. In accordance with what was highlighted in the Delhi Ministerial Declaration, the Brazilian Government finds it very important that the promotion of sustainable development in developing countries and the policies and measures required from countries committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions are objectives that must be sought in an interconnected manner.

The Brazilian presentation of its Initial National Communication signals the importance that the government of President Lula gives to meeting the commitments made under the Convention. The Brazilian government is engaged in the development and wide use of renewable energies, in combating deforestation and in using clean technologies, among other actions which contribute to achieving the Convention's ultimate objective.

The multilateral regime established by the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol is based on differentiated responsibilities and a common commitment to seeking solutions that reconcile the development of our societies and the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Technology is the link between these two elements. The capacity of developing countries to assess the impacts of climate change should be strengthened by measures such as the development of regional modeling tools. We should also work towards the development of a global strategy to adapt to climate change.

Fellow Ministers,

Brazil believes that the discussion of future actions regarding climate change should occur in an objective manner, based on the Convention principles.

Brazil supports this discussion, as shown by our joint initiative with Japan to offer a space for informal consideration of possible elements related to future actions. By believing in the feasibility of this discussion, we highlight the fact that it should be balanced and it should acknowledge the differentiation, established in the Convention, of the historical responsibilities of states for the increased temperature of the Earth. The imposition of emission reduction goals to developing countries is, in Brazil's opinion, contrary to the Convention and to the principles of justice and equity consecrated by it.

The discussion about the future should take into consideration the progress and the difficulties in implementing all the commitments made under the Convention. It should closely follow the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, especially in what concerns the compliance with the goals agreed upon. It should lead us to the definition of a negotiating mandate by the Conference of the Parties which allows us to reach 2012 with a regime strengthened by universal acceptance and promoting social, economic and environmental policies and measures consonant with a better quality of life in our society, without imposing a burden on the climate system which may compromise future generations.

Thank you.