

**STATEMENT NO. 16: MEXICO**  
(on behalf of the Environmental Integrity Group)

I am speaking on behalf of the Environmental Integrity Group. Our group is a small group of nations which is nonetheless highly committed to the protection of our environment. Global warming is one of the largest challenges of present and future generations, and because of that we are working here together and taking some steps in the right direction.

The last few days have proved to us that this has been an instance of true international cooperation. We have proved once again that the United Nations is the right setting for countries to work out and appreciate one another's differences, to talk openly and to decide to act together. We want to keep the United Nations, Mr. President.

Today, we feel a sense of fulfilment because we sense that a historic step has been achieved, and this historic step comes from a commitment and a decision to do something for our environment. Mr. President, I will never forget what we witnessed early this morning, between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. when the Group of 77 and China and the European Union did their utmost to reach out their hands and to work together. That, Mr. President, impressed me and it is a proof of how we can work together. During the past few days we have worked wisely and with passion, and it is with passion that we will attract and inspire those countries which have lost their way and which will necessarily have to come back to Kyoto.

Let me reflect a little bit about my country, Mexico. In Mexico we have already felt the effects of global warming. I have reminded all of my colleagues during the past few days of the effects that Mexico has felt in terms of hurricanes, prolonged droughts, and forest fires that we have never seen before. For this reason, Mexico ratified the Kyoto Protocol in April 2000. For this reason, I am proud to say that tomorrow Mexico will be presenting its second national communication, as probably the first country under the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. President, I am very happy to see in our political declarations that we have given special attention to the topic of vulnerability, that we have given special attention to the least developed countries that are in need, and that we have recognized the special needs of small island States.

Thank you Mr. President for your efforts. Thank you Michael Zammit Cutajar for bringing us together. I am going back to Mexico with a sense of hope. I am going back to Mexico with enthusiasm and I will tell my fellow Mexicans that, as the international community, we can work together.