

INTERVENTION
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HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL SERVICE, HEAD OF THE VIETNAMESE
DELEGATION TO THE 4TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
(ARGENTINA, 2-13 NOVEMBER, 1998)

Mrs President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnamese delegation to the 4th Session of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), allow me to congratulate you, Mrs President, on your election to this important position.

We also appreciate the Secretariat and other bodies of the Convention for their excellent contributions to the implementation of the Convention and for their very good preparation for the organization of this conference in the beautiful country of Argentina. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the Argentinian government and people for making it possible for us to be here for this important conference.

We have all observed that extraordinary climate events took place in 1997 and 1998. The El Nino phenomenon and global warming together had their strong impacts on climate and weather in almost all corners of the earth. Our climate is experiencing abnormal changes.

Situated in a region which is prone to natural calamities and with a long coastal line and large low land areas, Vietnam is vulnerable to climate change and rising of the sea level. In an agricultural country like Vietnam, climate and weather are heavily governing people's productivities. As climate change will pose potential and dangerous threats, it is now a cause of growing concern our country. This is why Vietnam signed the convention immediately after its conclusion in June, 1992. Together with the world community, our country has ever since been carrying out various activities for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

We had carried out inventories of greenhouse gases in 1990 and 1993, respectively. We had also prepared the draft National Programme for the implementation of the UNFCCC which is now open for recommendations from among ministries and agencies before it is ratified by the State for implementation. Vietnam is actively preparing for the implementation of the first National Communication regarding this Convention.

We also signed a pilot project with Japan on the use of excess heat of cement production.

In our country researches are being carried out for monitoring climate change, evaluating its causes and effects, its socio-economic impacts and consequences on the life of our people, specially those posed by the rise of the sea level.

Mrs President,

In a situation of the present serious financial crisis in our region which tends to spread to other parts of the world, all countries, first developing ones, while trying to overcome the very difficult challenges to sustain development, have to face environmental and climate catastrophies.

This is very much true of Vietnam . While carrying out the important task of pushing up economic development, surmounting the impacts of the above-mentioned financial crisis on the backward economy with its poor infrastructure, we are also confronting the challenges of climate change.

In spite of all this, Vietnam has been and will strive together with the world community for the protection of our common climate system by continuing our close cooperation with all countries and international organizations in the implementation of the Convention.

Mrs President,

Climate change has been a common concern the world over. Therefore, efforts have to be made and commitment further strengthened to put into practice the provisions of the Convention. We trust that the Kyoto Protocol will serve as an effective instrument for the implementation of this Convention.

Together with G 77 and China, we are of the view that for the carrying out of their commitments as regards the Convention, developing countries have to be given both financial and technical supports. Again, sharing the view of this Group, we would request that COP4 must not be detracted from the path of implementing the Convention commitments.

Vietnam has enjoyed supports, which remain modest, from international organizations and GEF for its implementation of the Convention. On behalf of the our Government, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat and GEF, international organizations and many countries for their assistance in this regard.

We hope that our conference will take important decisions on implementation of the Convention in the near future, which are in conformity with the principles of the Convention and the common responsibility of the international community.

Thank you for your attention.