

STATEMENT NO. 3: MOROCCO ²

On this great day of joy, which all delegates here have experienced, and which public opinion has experienced through the media, on behalf of our Minister and the Moroccan delegation, I would like to address our sincerest and warmest congratulations and very special thanks to our President, Mr. Pronk, for the work that he has performed and for all the efforts he has been making over these hard and testing days. I would also like to thank and congratulate all of those who, from near or from far, have contributed to ensuring that this is a joyful and memorable day.

I would like to recall that the Parties have also taken another decision, that is to organize the next Conference of the Parties in Marrakesh, Morocco, from 29 October to 9 November 2001. I would like to take this opportunity to say to all delegations that the preparations are well under way, as the Minister already stated in his opening address, and that we shall meet the challenge. With the help of all the Parties present, and in particular the developing countries and the Group of 77 and China, we will do everything to ensure that the Conference is a success and that Marrakesh is a springboard that will lead to a new momentum on our way towards Johannesburg.

² The original statement was delivered in French.