

**SINGAPORE STATEMENT**  
**THIRD MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE**  
**PARTIES**  
**UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE, KYOTO, 9 DEC 1997**

**MR YEO CHEOW TONG,**  
**MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND**  
**MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

First, let me thank the Government of Japan and the Mayor and people of Kyoto, for hosting this Conference.

2 The presence of delegations from over 150 countries here in Kyoto reflects the importance we all place on controlling greenhouse gas emission. The fact that many countries have, in the last ten years, experienced some of their hottest weather, and that the world has increasingly witnessed unusual droughts and floods, should alert us to the threat posed by climate change.

3 Singapore, like other countries gathered here, is fully committed to the collective global effort to control emission of greenhouse gases. Like many other small island states, we have no natural resources, and we are totally dependent on imported fossil fuels. We are highly urbanised, and have no potential to develop non-fossil alternative sources of energy, be it hydro, nuclear or geothermal power. Because of our total dependence on fossil fuels for our energy needs, our carbon dioxide emissions will inevitably continue to increase as our economy develops and our population grows.

4 As a developing country, Singapore is not obligated under the Convention to set emission control targets. Nonetheless, we have taken a number of measures to contain our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We have started to use more expensive natural gas instead of fuel oil in some of our power stations. We have promoted energy efficiency by

offering tax incentives to companies which invest in energy-efficient technologies. And we introduced tough and painful measures to discourage car ownership and usage, and built up an efficient public transport system. These efforts have enabled us to abate the growth of greenhouse gas emissions.

5 The seriousness of the threat from climate change require all of us to actively play our part constructively. We can afford to do no less. Five years after Rio, we have to move firmly forward, with the developed countries making firm commitments for significant and meaningful reductions in their greenhouse gases emissions.

6 Developing countries too, need to play their part. Indeed, I am glad that, even though they are not required to do so under the Framework Convention, many developing countries, like Singapore, have, on their own volition, already embarked on emission mitigation programmes. . Such efforts augur well for our collective efforts to combat global warming. I would urge developing countries, though not obliged by the Framework Convention, to continue to voluntarily review their sources of greenhouse gases, improve energy efficiency, and find ways to better control the emission of such gases.

7 However, many developing countries can only do so much, as they lack the necessary resources and technical capabilities. It is very necessary for the developed world to extend technological and financial assistance, as called for under the Convention. This will enable more developing countries to actively participate in the protection of our global environment.

8 In recent weeks, there have been attempts to include developing countries in the Protocol. Understandably, many developing countries have viewed these to be attempts to shift attention from the existing commitments of Annex I parties. Others view this as an attempt to set the stage for shifting the blame to the developing countries should the Kyoto Conference fail to arrive at a meaningful Protocol.

9 With less than two days available for Ministers to finalise the Protocol, we need to focus our minds and energy on what has been agreed at the Rio Summit and the COP1 in Berlin. The existing issues already pose a significant challenge. Any effort to formally include developing countries in the Protocol will only unnecessarily compound our difficulties, and increase the chances of failure. The developed countries should view the roles and involvement of developing countries in the protocol as a much longer term process.

10 The developed countries had displayed true leadership in Rio by accepting responsibility for global environmental efforts. This contributed immeasurably to the success of the Earth Summit. Today in Kyoto, it is crucial for the developed countries to again lead, by fulfilling their obligations under the Berlin Mandate and their commitment to a meaningful reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

11 With the threat of global warming staring at us in the face, I hope that our sense of purpose and responsibility will prevail over other narrow interests and allow us to reach a solution that will be applauded by future generations.

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