

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Speech at the Ninth Conference of Parties
to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

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President

Mr. ~~Chairman~~, honorable ministers, distinguished guests, ~~ladies and gentlemen~~:

Climate change continues to pose a direct risk to our clients – the developing countries – and especially to poor people in those countries whose lives and livelihoods are likely to be threatened.

Poor countries are more vulnerable to climate variability and climate change than rich countries because their economies are particularly dependent on climate sensitive sectors, such as agriculture and forestry, and because they have fewer resources and less institutional capacity to lessen the impacts of climate change effects. Many developing countries are located in fragile ecological zones which are vulnerable to climate change. The effects include decreasing water availability and quality, increased risk of floods and drought, increased incidence of vector and water-borne diseases and decreased agricultural productivity.

President

Mr. ~~Chairman~~, The World Bank believes that we must implement a wide array of actions to address climate change. We must guard against polemical discourse that sometimes suggests

a set of mutually exclusive options. We believe that all scientifically and financially sound approaches should be explored. For example, adaptation must go hand-in-hand with mitigation. Indeed adaptation to climate change must be given greater attention to ensure the long-term effectiveness of investments in poverty reduction and sustainable development.

The recent GEF allocation of ~~US\$50 million for pilot and demonstration projects for~~ adaptation represents an important step in addressing the vulnerability concerns of ~~developing countries.~~

Dealing with the impacts of climate change and with emissions reductions should not be mutually exclusive, but complementary. Similarly, technology development can work with, and be reinforced by, sound global public policy. It is not a case of either clean technology development or a sound protocol with discernible targets. It is both. The Protocol could facilitate the introduction of new technologies and act as an incentive for their development.

Addressing climate change will require public funding and also private finance: working together towards common objectives. The World Bank works with both the public and private sectors. We are proud to be the ^{one of} implementing agency ^{is} of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and, working under the guidance of this Convention, have assisted governments by funding over 4 billion dollars of climate change activities, using GEF to leverage World Bank and other finance.

We have also developed a series of public and private financed "Carbon Funds", ~~including the Prototype Carbon Fund (PCF), the Community Development Carbon Fund (CDCF) and~~

~~the Bio-Carbon Fund~~, all of which are designed to demonstrate and learn how markets for carbon might work under the Kyoto Protocol's proposed flexible mechanisms.

~~(Significant reductions in emissions can also be achieved by establishing national markets and regulatory frameworks for renewable energy and energy efficiency, especially in the largest developing countries. The World Bank, together with GEF, is working with China, India and Mexico in this area.)~~

President

Mr. ~~Chairman~~, The World Bank also believes that we must address "sinks" as well as sources of emissions. We are delighted that this meeting has made progress in this regard.

Many land-use and land-use change activities, if well designed, can simultaneously be *address climate change and* *environmentally* socially and environmentally beneficial. ~~(For example, afforestation, reforestation, and improved management of forests, agriculture and grazing lands can lead to an increased storage of carbon in the terrestrial biosphere and conserve biodiversity, reduce land degradation and increase productivity, - a key to economic growth -)~~ *agricultural*

We have also learned from our operational work that activities under climate change are very often closely associated with actions under other global environmental conventions. For example, climate change is linked to the loss of biodiversity and land degradation. A number of joint activities -- that will result in greater convergence and development impact-- are underway among the global environmental Conventions. We encourage these efforts to move forward as expeditiously as possible.

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including in the forestry sector

In financing climate change projects and programs The World Bank also applies its regular environmental and social policy due diligence. We believe that it is critically important that in identifying actions to address global climate change we do not ignore local and national social and environmental impacts.

We believe that a convention in future guidance on this issue would be helpful.

President
Mr. Chairman,

The World Bank welcomes the work and guidance of this Convention as a significant contribution to global sustainable development and ecological security. We are honored to be here at COP9 and to work with you.

Thank you.