

Statement by U Kyaw Tint Swe
Secretary, National Commission for Environmental Affairs
And
Head of Myanmar Delegation
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Mme

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Myanmar delegation, let me congratulate you on your election as President of Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC- COP4). We are confident that your vast experience and able guidance will result in fruitful outcome of this very important conference. I also wish to express my deep appreciation ^{through you} to the host country, Argentina for the warm hospitality extended to the delegates and for the superb arrangement made for this meeting.

Mme President,

Since the Framework Convention on Climate Change came into effect in March 1994, it has generally been observed that the follow-up process to the Convention has not yet gathered much momentum. Much to our dismay, the emissions had increased in all but a few of the Annex 1 countries by the end of 1997. The current extreme climate events in many parts of the world have added to our already deep concern on the adverse effect of the climate change. The developing countries in particular are increasingly faced with the disastrous impacts of the anomalies of climate in terms of heavy loss of life and property. The recent tragedy in Central America is a case in point. My delegation wishes to express our solidarity with the people of the effected countries.

[The adoption of the Berlin mandate has been instrumental in paving the way for further negotiations to fortify and strengthen the Convention. We have made a breakthrough in Kyoto last December in terms of reaching an agreement to enhance our commitments to protect the atmosphere and the Earth's climate system.] We all are aware that tremendous amount of work and efforts were put in, and intensive negotiations took place in making the Kyoto Protocol a reality. Many of us have taken part in the negotiation process and have gained insight to the complex nature of some of the important articles contained in the Protocol. Despite some hitches during the final stage of negotiation, the Kyoto Protocol emerged as a milestone which would test the political will of both the developed and the developing countries to understand each other's position and to cooperate together to address this serious global issue. A key to the successful implementation of the Convention and the Protocol lies to a large extent with ^{Annex 1 countries} ~~all nations~~ facing boldly all inconveniences involved in meeting the obligations set out in these agreements.]

We all fully understand that the road towards reaching the goals of stabilizing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is a long one. We look to the Kyoto Protocol as an important springboard for achieving the desired objectives. We are happy to note that in the Kyoto Protocol we have an agreement of the legally binding, quantified greenhouse gas emission targets for Annex 1 parties. It is important for these countries to see it through all available means so that required ratification are realised we give ^{life} ~~life~~ to the Kyoto Protocol. [Moreover, as noted in the Convention on Climate Change, the largest share of historical and current global emissions of greenhouse gases originated in the developed countries. It is critical that Annex 1 countries should set an example by taking initiatives in signing and ratifying the Protocol

and in taking prompt follow-up action. WRI Report identified the ten countries with the highest GHG net emissions (CO₂, methane and CFCs). Although a few countries in Asia are included in the list, in terms of per capita emission, they are far below the industrialized countries. ^{There is a need for projects that can be jointly implemented for reducing greenhouse gas emission among the highest net producers of these gases.} Regional cooperation in the form of regional projects can also contribute towards achieving the aims of the convention. One such example is the "Asia Least Cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy" (ALGAS) project, funded by the UNDP/GEF, ~~Norway~~ and ADB. The 12 countries included in the project, my own country among them, have completed their greenhouse gas inventorization and have developed abatement scenarios. Evidently, the share of global emissions originated in developing countries will grow to meet their social and development needs. ~~Under such circumstances, it is vitally important that Article 10 (c) and (e) of the Protocol receive an urgent and concerted response. In their pursuit for sustainable development,~~ ^{and in their efforts to implement provisions of the Convention} the developing countries should be provided with an adequate financial and technical support. Mobilization of financial resources ^{and transfer of environmentally sound technology} ~~are~~ crucial to help these countries adapt and adopt cleaner production so as to prevent them from carrying out the same costly mistakes made by the industrial countries. ^{It is also crucial that Article 12 of the Protocol which defined "clean development mechanism" should benefit both the developed and developing countries. Moreover, due to its complex nature there is a need to further clarified its modalities to the satisfaction of the developing countries the intended prinipal beneficiaries.}]

Let me now briefly mention the efforts being made in Myanmar in ~~the context~~ in fulfilling our common but differentiated responsibilities with

regard to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. [Myanmar signed the Convention at the Earth Summit and ratified it on 25 November 1994.] Although the country has a large extent of paddy land as a source of methane gas emission, forests which cover fifty percent of the country, more than compensate for it and provide an important sink for the greenhouse gas. The level of industrialization in the country is also relatively low. On the whole, Myanmar's contribution to greenhouse gas concentration is ~~only~~ minimal. Nevertheless, Myanmar is well aware of the threat of climate change and being an agricultural country depending on weather condition for agricultural production, Myanmar is making great efforts to stabilize the local climate by carrying out afforestation and intensive greening projects in the country. [At present the Myanmar Government is implementing a program of vegetating the arid zones in the 13 districts in the central part of Myanmar. Since 1977/78, a nation-wide tree planting program has been conducted with the participation of local communities, and nongovernmental and governmental organizations. The forestry department is also promoting forestry plantation to enrich and reforest denuded areas. A total of 494,200 hectares had been planted during 1963 to 1995, and the current annual planting target is approximately 33,000 hectares.]

Myanmar's commitments to the UNFCCC include inter alia, tasks such as ; developing national inventories on sources and sinks of all greenhouse gases (GHGs); formulating, implementing, ~~and publishing~~ national and regional programmes to mitigate climate change; ~~practices and processes that control, reduce, or prevent GHGs emissions;~~ ^{and} promoting sustainable forest management practices by conserving and enhancing sinks and reservoirs of GHGs.

Myanmar has taken part in the ALGAS project. Under this project Myanmar has conducted its first inventory of greenhouse gases emissions. The key findings of the emissions inventory show that green gas emission to be extremely low while agriculture sector is the dominant source sector, with methane emissions from enteric fermentation and rice cultivation accounting to 94 percent of the national CO₂- equivalent emissions and the forestry sector is a net carbon sink (-9,402 Gigagrams of CO₂)] The energy sector contributions to national GHGs emissions are marginal. }

~~Myanmar has now completed the ALGAS country report.~~
Myanmar Agenda 21 has also been formulated and ~~published~~, and development of effective environmental legislation including National Framework Environmental Law and EIA Law is now being undertaken in Myanmar.

Mr. President,

Before I conclude, I wish to stress that ~~Myanmar attaches great~~ importance to the success of the present conference . As the supreme body of the Convention, the outcome of this conference will have far reaching effect on ~~the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.~~ ^{all}] All nations should ~~therefore~~ cooperate to make COP4 a success and resolve to fulfil their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities for combating the climate change and protecting the environment. This is the only course of action available to us , and this is the only course we must follow, for our sake and for the sake of the future generations.

Thank you

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