

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

Statement to the Fourth Conference of Parties on The Framework
Convention on Climate Change.

By:

Hon. A. S. Hambayi, MP,
Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

12th November 1998,
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Madam President, allow, me on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the COP4. Further, my delegation would like to register our great appreciation and thanks to the Government and the people of Argentina for hosting this conference and for their hospitality.

My delegation re-affirms our full support and commitment to the ideals and objectives of the FCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. We are prepared to play our part at national and international levels to realise these goals and objectives according to the agreed principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

It is my delegation's view that COP-3 held in Kyoto made great progress towards achieving the objectives of the FCCC resulting in the Kyoto Protocol which we consider to be a very important document. However without detracting from the achievements or likely outcome of this conference, my delegation is somewhat dissatisfied and concerned to note that a disproportionate amount of time at this conference has been taken up discussing issues which we believed had already been settled or agreed upon. We believed that COP-4 should take more time and decide on matters related to operating mechanisms or arrangements to operationalise the provisions of the FCCC and the Kyoto Protocol. My delegation believes time to act is now. In this regard, we would like to call upon Annex-1 parties to start responding positively to the effects of climate change by ensuring that they meet their obligations towards reducing their Green House Gases (GHGs) emissions in their countries in line with their commitments under the convention and related Protocols.

Developing countries appreciate that it is in our common interest to take actions now to avert catastrophes arising from climate change and they are willing to do so. However these countries do not have the capacity in terms of resources and technology to undertake such actions on their own. Hence the need for assistance from annex1 countries. Further, annex 1 countries should assist developing country parties to meet their adaptation needs as agreed in the convention.

Madam President, with regards the various mechanisms under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, my delegation believes that all mechanisms must be treated with equal importance. We would like to see a

transparent and logical sequencing of implementation of these mechanisms with a view to directly benefitting the developing countries to achieve sustainable development. We must emphasize that for developing countries such as Zambia, the activities of the convention must be linked to programmes of poverty eradication through the attainment of sustainable development. Therefore any proposals which tend to divert efforts away from that goal or are likely to impose additional burdens on the poor countries should be rejected as unfair and inequitable.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), offers opportunities for developing and developed countries (working together) to achieve the goals of the convention. However, the CDM should be so structured that the weakest and most vulnerable of developing countries are not marginalised. There will therefore be a continuing need for ODAs and other forms of assistance to help the developing countries particularly the least developed ones to put in place infrastructure and other facilities and incentives which will help attract foreign direct investments in CDM projects. This will include appropriate technology transfer and promotion of development of indigenous technology.

Madam President, may I conclude by re-iterating that my delegation believes that the Kyoto Protocol, introduced some hope for both the "HAVES" and the "HAVE NOTS" to work together and move forward in their quest for solutions to address the serious problems arising from climate change. It is our wish therefore that this conference (COP4) will translate this wish into real implementable tangible programs. hope

I THANK YOU.