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**STATEMENT  
by H.E. Mrs. Evdokia Maneva  
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Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Shishko, on your election as President of the 5th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is a high honour, a gesture of respect toward the countries in transition to a market economy, and a recognition of their efforts to become matching partners with the developed countries under Annex I of the Convention.

An historical step was taken in Kyoto, setting forth the determination of all mankind to reduce the likelihood of global climate change. The 4th Conference in Buenos Aires was no less important - accepting the Action Plan saved the "Kyoto momentum". The implementation of this Plan - fully supported by Bulgaria - will further strengthen the arguments for an earlier ratification of the Protocol.

This year a National Action Plan on Climate Change has been developed in Bulgaria, and is awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers. In addition to domestic activity, the Plan envisages close cooperation with other countries, creation of an appropriate climate for investment, application of the most advanced technologies, and establishment of the necessary legal and institutional basis for Joint Implementation projects and emission trading.

The present GH emission levels in Bulgaria are about 35% lower than those of the base year. It is very important that the expected growth of the economy for the years to come does not lead to an increase in emissions. Bulgaria has the potential to reach this goal by introducing new technologies, significantly improving energy efficiency and increasing the share of renewable energy resources, as well as actively participating in JI and emission trading.

A pilot JI project with the Netherlands is under way and two more are in the pipeline, while we anticipate similar co-operation with Denmark, Italy, Austria and Japan.

We reckon that the continuation of the "Activities Implemented Jointly" pilot phase under the Buenos Aires Plan will confirm that the "flexible mechanism" of the Kyoto Protocol will contribute to the more effective fulfilment of its requirements by formulating more precisely the project's criteria selection, sustainable development compatibility, methods for monitoring and compliance, institutional roles, and management principles. It will facilitate the definitions of the term "base line" and the phrase ". in addition to the national activities."

The successful fulfilment of the Buenos Aires Plan will create all prerequisites in the year 2001 for the early enforcement of the Kyoto Protocol. This requires additional efforts to reach a consensus by all national representatives on the key questions, and adoption of the required decisions by the 6th Conference.

I would like to propose to organise a meeting, dedicated to the discussion of the possibilities and means for maintaining existing levels of emission reduction in the countries in transition, in view of the expected growth of their economies in the near future. I believe the exchange of opinions on this subject will be very useful for all countries in transition, and I will welcome your support for the idea I have just outlined.

Thank you for your attention.