



**STATEMENT BY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT OF PORTUGAL
MR. RUI NOBRE GONÇALVES**

**TO THE SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE
CHANGE**

The Hague

21 November, 2000

Mister Chairman
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured to address the 6th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Mister Chairman

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol gave the world hope and direction in combating the threat of climate change. Now time has come to implement the subsequent Buenos Aires Action Plan, and decide the ways to achieve the goals agreed by the Parties.

Supporting the positions already expressed by the European Union and by my distinguished colleagues, I would like to underline the importance for Portugal of ensuring environmental integrity and credibility of the Kyoto Protocol. This shall be achieved through the adoption at COP6 of a strong and comprehensive compliance system and a clear and effective set of rules for the three Kyoto mechanisms.

Conveying the importance of the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry issue in this Conference, Portugal would like to stress its view on the need to ensure that the implementation of rules for action, under the Kyoto Protocol, will not in any case unbalance appropriate sustainable forest management. In fact, forests are valuable and complex ecosystems and should not be seen as one more player in the strategies set forth to reduce emissions.

Furthermore, Portugal considers that any strategy should not undermine incentives for domestic emissions reductions nor jeopardize the goals of biological diversity conservation.

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates

Since the World Conference of Rio de Janeiro in 1992, Portugal has been in a process of strong economical and technological change. We are fully committed to fulfilling our obligations in order to protect the environment at the local, regional and global levels to safeguard the well being of future generations. In this context Portugal is also committed to develop and implement measures at the national level in the most relevant economic sectors.

Besides, Portugal is promoting the diversification of energy sources and fuel in the industry, transport and energy sectors, and promoting, with the help of economic incentives, the use of new and renewable energy sources. Portugal is seeking the increase of energy efficiency in those sectors as well as in the building sector.

Moreover, the use of new fiscal and economic instruments, currently under consideration by the Portuguese Government, shall play an important role among the domestic policies directed to curbing greenhouse gases emissions.

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

With regard to the development of the operational arrangements, Portugal expects Parties to pursue a constructive approach aiming at concrete results during this Conference. In this context Portugal will support any arrangements set by the President of COP6, which can help to stimulate an enlarged participation of all Parties.

While stressing the need for concrete progress on the Kyoto mechanisms, Portugal believes that tackling global warming will require a strong set of integrated national policies and measures in dealing with sectors responsible for the emission of greenhouse gases.

Portugal shares the serious concerns relating to adverse impacts of climate change in the developing countries, including the least developing countries and the small islands developing states.

Therefore Portugal is strongly committed to the major task of tackling this issue and highly motivated to engage in the promotion of consistent adaptation measures in the overall context of Developing Countries sustainable development.

The issues related to the Framework Convention on Climate Change will be one of our priorities, towards the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol at 2002, ten years after the Rio Summit.

I thank you all very much