

**STATEMENT NO. 11: RUSSIAN FEDERATION<sup>5</sup>**

On behalf of the delegation of the Russian Federation, I should like to congratulate the participants in the negotiations, and to congratulate you, Mr. President, on the great achievement, which you have managed to bring about as a result of our intensive and difficult work. I am grateful to the secretariat for the help of its very experienced and efficient staff, without whose assistance it would not have been possible to achieve these politically significant results in such a short period of time.

I think that, although today there is a regular plenary session of the Conference of the Parties, we are in fact all in a celebratory mood, because today we have overcome the differences of opinion which for quite some time have prevented us from moving forward in the design of flexibility mechanisms and, in the final analysis, from moving towards the entry into force and implementation of the Kyoto Protocol. The negotiations were not easy, and the fragile balance that was achieved is a result of the good will and efforts of all participants in the negotiations who strived to reach positive results in order to facilitate moving forward as quickly as possible towards the entry into force of the Protocol and implementation of its provisions.

But there is a great deal of work ahead of us. Important political decisions have been taken, but many technical questions and parameters, which will have an influence on the implementation of the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol, still have to be clarified and discussed. For this reason, Mr. President, I would like to express the hope that the final versions of the documents, which will be issued in all official languages of the United Nations, will reflect the elements, which you have referred to in your statement today. I think that there are a lot of figures, which have to be looked at, for example, in the forestry sector. I am confident that as a result of the technical negotiations and preparation of the relevant documents, we will be able to find the optimal solutions which will make it possible for countries to implement the undertaken commitments with maximum efficiency.

I should like to welcome the statements we have heard today from the representative of the European Community, the Minister of Belgium, and also of the Minister of Japan, concerning assistance and support to developing countries in their efforts to resolve the problems of climate change. You may recall, Mr. President, that during the negotiations there were lengthy debates aimed at finding stricter and binding wordings related to funding of activities under the Convention and the Protocol. I would like to stress that the good will of countries, their efforts to implement the commitments, including their financial ones, as fully as possible were the main driving force of success. Bureaucratic constructs cannot be compared in strength with the good will of countries determined to persevere in their efforts to minimize the effects of climate change. I would also like to say that at present Russia is not in a position to join in the financial support to the developing countries, but I believe there will be a time when we will be among those countries who actively fulfil their commitments.

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<sup>5</sup> The original statement was delivered in Russian.

I would like to draw your attention to the recent initiative of the President of the Russian Federation, which was supported yesterday at the G-8 summit in Genoa by the leaders of the seven industrialized nations, to hold a World Climate Conference in 2003. I believe this conference will help us better understand the problems of climate change, their influence on the life of people and adaptation options. I believe such a world forum would be a very useful opportunity for a dialogue between researchers, economists, climate and social scientists, which would allow us to further develop and take measures to overcome the effects of climate change.

Just a few days ago while talking to our German colleagues, I expressed our hope that Bonn would become a symbol of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol in the same way as the city of Kyoto became a symbol of its development and adoption. I am happy that my hope comes true and that indeed today Bonn becomes a symbol of moving forward. Political will and desire of countries to work together to overcome differences of opinion helped to unite our efforts, so that together we could solve global climate problems.

Once again, I would like to express my satisfaction with the results of our work and to wish a fruitful continuation of the negotiations part of the Conference of the Parties which should achieve very important practical results, so that the seventh session of the Conference of Parties in Morocco would be able to adopt a full package of documents bringing about the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and eliminating the remaining barriers to the ratification of the Protocol by many countries.