

**STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**21 November 2000, The Hague, Netherlands**

**MARIO ROÑO**

**Undersecretary for International Commitment  
and Local Government Affairs  
Department of Natural Resources and Environment**

**MADAME PRESIDENT:**

When the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997, after an arduous period of negotiations, no particular group was overly pleased. But at least it was welcomed as a window of opportunity to start meaningful actions that achieve the Convention's objectives. It was perceived as a ray of hope to forestall a global catastrophe that threatens our very existence. However, that process was not complete.

We went on to Buenos Aires to continue putting flesh on the Protocol skeleton. And again, despite tumultuous negotiations, we were able to agree to move forward with the Buenos Aires Plan of Action. We were hopeful that negotiations on the BAPA items could be concluded at this Sixth Session in The Hague.

However, the full resolution of these issues should not be a precondition for Parties to ratify the Protocol. We would like to think that a majority of us, if not all, became Parties to the Convention in good faith. But we are dismayed, President, that a small number of Parties, but the essential ones, are holding up this process waiting to see how the rules will turn out. And it is not a passive game for them at that. Every effort is exerted, it seems, to ensure that those rules are skewed in their favor. Never mind the fact that in the end, they will be significantly increasing rather than cutting their emissions. Or that they perpetuate other inequities. Or that the entire world will be brought to the brink of disaster.

**We cannot afford to give in to these diversionary tactics, Madame President.**

**Our Convention principles of North-South equity and of common but differentiated responsibilities must be brought back to the center of negotiations, for in them lie the long-lasting solution to this and other North-South problems.**

**We believe, along with 135 other countries in the Group of 77 and China, that the extent to which we will effectively implement our commitments to sustainable development and the long term objective are related to the financial resources and transfer of technology by the North which in turn will take fully into account that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the South's first and overriding priorities.**

**We also believe, along with the Group, that all Parties to the Convention, without introducing new commitments for developing countries but reaffirming and continuing to advance the implementation of existing commitments under the Convention in order to achieve sustainable development, shall cooperate with the Parties in Annex I for their activities enumerated in Article 10 of the Kyoto Protocol.**

**And we firmly believe that the Group has cooperated fully and will continue to do so to help implement the Protocol only if and when to the extent that the developed countries have effectively implemented their Convention and Protocol commitments.**

**But surely, the well-known adage "Actions speak louder than words" must be supported by whatever we achieve this week within these halls.**

**We share the Group's sense of urgency to come to an agreement not to leave The Hague without substantive and adequate decisions for developed countries to honor their commitments since we have fallen too far behind since Kyoto. We demand that the Protocol enter into force by 2002 because the world cannot afford further delay.**

**Thank you, Madame Chairman.**