

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties, Milan, 1-12 December 2003

11 December 2003

**The Statement of Professor Mustafa Öztürk, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of
Environment and Forestry, The Republic of Turkey**

Mr. President,

Honorable Ministers, Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me pleasure to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Ninth Session of the Conference of the Parties. I must say that under your able leadership, this Conference has successfully handled the issues on the agenda. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Italy for hosting this Conference.

I would like to inform you and all the Parties represented here today on the recent development of Turkey's situation with respect to being a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Mr. President,

Let me remind you and all the distinguished ministers and heads of delegation on the critical consensus for the Decision Twenty-six of the COP Seven in Marrakech in November 2001, dealing with the proposal to amend the list in the Annexes I and II to the Convention by removing the name of Turkey, which was submitted by Azerbaijan and Pakistan in the COP Three in Kyoto in December 1997.

At the COP Seven in Marrakech, the Conference of the Parties, underlining that Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, decided to amend the list in the Annex II to the Convention by deleting the name of Turkey. The Conference of the Parties also invited the Parties to recognize the special circumstances of Turkey, which place Turkey, after becoming a Party, in a situation different from that of other Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.

The Republic of Turkey, by taking into account of this fair and enjoyable decision that referred to her special circumstances, accelerated the parliamentary procedures required for accession to the Convention.

On conclusion, Mr. President, it is a great honour for me now to announce that the Law regarding the accession of Turkey to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was acceded by the Turkish Grand National Assembly in October 2003.

Mr. President,

Turkey is ready to contribute for both reducing greenhouse gas emissions and ensuring global climate security by maximizing the use of the capacity in terms of clean energy sources, such as solar, wind and geothermal, and energy conservation and efficiency, and also implementing the projects that will increase the proportion of the use of hydro-energy.

By taking this opportunity, Mr. President, I would also like to express sincere appreciations of my Government again to all the concerned Parties and the Secretariat of the Convention.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.