

Statement To The High Level Segment

**The Third Session Of The Conference Of The Parties To The
United Nations framework Convention On Climate Change**

By

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Mr. President,

I would like first to express our appreciation to Japan for hosting the Conference. Our appreciation also goes to you for wisely guiding our negotiation. We express our satisfaction for choosing the historic capital **Kyoto** as a venue for this conference which we hope will produce positive results reducing, before it is too late, man's misuse of nature, atmosphere and air. The International community should concentrate on eliminating threats to the climate system. As stated by one of the great international figures participating in the conference, this issue is truly: "the issue of the earth".

Mr. President,

Lebanon has realised the importance of conserving the environment. Since 1970's we participated in conferences and meetings that have been held to prevent pollution. Lebanon with its partners in the Mediterranean have exerted common efforts to preserve the Mediterranean as a clean and healthy sea.

In 1975, Lebanon "**the land of Cedar trees**" witnessed disturbances and violence which was followed by successive wars with devastating consequences for its economic and infrastructure facilities, as well as for the standard of living of its population and the environment. For years, and within the context of extremely difficult circumstances, Lebanon has been trying to invigorate its economy, rehabilitate the infrastructure and revive interest in the environment for which a Ministry was created.

On the domestic level we have done the following:

- Launching Public Awareness Campaigns. Introduction of environmental concepts in Schools and Universities.
- Supporting independent institutes and encourages NGO's with a view to intensify scientific research.
- Conserving Protected areas and establishments of new ones in Pine and Cedar forest.
- Implementing the emergency action plan for the management of solid waste.
- Implementing a plan to prevent and mitigate pollution through modelling methods to achieve sustainable development.

With regards to the UNFCCC, Lebanon acceded to it and committed itself to its provisions. The Lebanese Government has taken measures to implement its commitments, and we are in the process of preparing our national communication which will be presented in due time to the COP.

The government takes this opportunity to express appreciation for the positive response obtained from the chair of the COP2 and the secretariat to the implementation of its commitments. We would like also to acknowledge the effective support we received from the secretariat bodies.

Mr. President,

It is perceived that Lebanon being a Middle East country is rich in natural resources, the truth is that we have neither oil nor gold, we depend on our human resources. The only natural resource we have is water and a moderate distinctly four season climate, in a tiny spot of land. These two elements served as tourist attractions to our country. Tourism is one of the major sources of our economy. Therefore **climate for us is the precious asset we are anxious to protect.**

As for the problems of global warming, my Government appeals to the *developed and technological advanced countries* to translate their leadership into effective measures for the globe as a whole and the mankind. We call upon them to help in the transfer of technology to the Developing Countries with a view to enabling these countries meet their commitments without any negative consequences on their economic growth.

Mr. President,

Few days ago **Professor Hajime Nakamura**, recognised as a world authority on BUDHISM, indian and eastern philosopher made some comments on this issue. He said that living in Harmony with nature is one of the constants of the oriental cultural identity. In oriental culture, he added, there is no separation between man and his natural environment. In referring to Global Warming Prof. Nakamura spoke about what he called "nature's rebellion against and revenge for manmade action".

A professor at Tokyo University participating in this conference talked to me about a western thinker, highly appreciated and very popular among his many Japanese readers. This western thinker said that **“there is a deep dialogue and intimate relation between man and nature.”**

It is our wish, Mr. President, that these eastern and western values will be a source of inspiration for our conference so it can formulate global principles for responsible and transparent relation between human being, nature and climate.

We trust that this Japanese cultural capital be the land where man and nature get reconciled.

Thus, the Kyoto Protocol will be, as historic as this city.

Thank you Mr. President