

**High Level Segment- Round Table Discussions 11th of December 2003
COP 9, Milan**

Assessment of progress at national, regional and international levels to fulfil the promise and objective enshrined in the climate change agreements, including scientific, information, policy and financial aspects.

Government of Yemen

Minister of Water and Environment Dr. Mohammed L. Al-Eryani

Thank you Mr. President, Honourable Ministers, Heads of delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen. I would like to express my appreciation to the Italian Government for hosting COP 9 .

First of all I would like to express sympathy and full solidarity with the Small Island States, who will be the first victims of Climate Change, unless the international community unifies to take action in implementing the relevant agreements.

In Yemen we are also deeply concerned about the negative impacts of Climate Change on our country.

Yemen, amongst many developing countries has agreed to ratify the Kyoto Protocol (despite our "modest" oil production) . As my Moroccan colleague pointed out yesterday, we and other developing countries have shown good will and commitment to confront the Climate Change threats. However, we are deeply concerned and disappointed about the resistance of ANNEX I countries to take the necessary actions.

If the industrialised countries seriously take their international commitments, they will have to move into the implementation phase. We need operational funds to help us and other vulnerable countries in our adaptation efforts, technology transfer, research and capacity building.

We therefore urge all parties especially Russia to ratify the Kyoto Protocol!!! We welcome the commitment of the European countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions! We especially support the Johannesburg Declaration to promote RE!

As for our national progress we have submitted the 1st National Communication to the UNFCCC secretariat and we are preparing already the 2nd communication.

In few weeks we will start as one of the first countries to prepare the NAPA.

We have also implemented few pilot RE projects and our Mo Electricity will spend 10% of its rural electrification budget for 2004 on RE. About 75% of Yemen's population of 20 Million is scattered in more than 60.000 villages in rugged mountainous areas and they will have to be supplied through RE.

We have also supported the first private sector initiatives and we are encouraging NGOs to work on Climate Change.

We are committed to continue our progress. We participate actively in the Bonn Conference 2004 and we will host a regional preparation meeting for the north Africa and Western Asian Countries during February/ March 2004.

But while we are thankful for joint micro-projects funded by the Netherlands and German governments, we need additional partners and more support.

We believe Yemen can accomplish more, if governments and international organisations can increase their support not only for RE projects but also for setting up a framework for CDM projects. We are also keen to work on reforestation, awareness raising and research.

We are also seeking cooperation with the private sector in industrialized countries and are welcoming international NGOs to create more synergies on development and Climate Change.

Let me conclude by mentioning that we came here to support the UNFCCC and we are expecting progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Kyoto protocol. And we would like to return home with concrete commitments!!!!

We would like to see simplified procedures and a clear commitment to implement NAPA and CDM projects. We hope COP 9 will be an important step to enhance the visibility and activation of the international Climate Change regime.

Finally we would like to invite all experts and decision makers to come to our country and to get an idea about situation and support us in our efforts.

Thank you very much!