

**SWAZILAND'S STATEMENT TO THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT
OF COP6**

**DELIVERED BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT
H.E. PRINCE GUDUZA
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Thank You, Mr. President

Mr. President, Fellow Ministers, the Executive Secretary, Representative of the United Nation Agencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of their Majesties Government and the people of the Kingdom of Swaziland, it is my honour and privilege to address the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change.

Mr. President

Allow me to begin by congratulating you for your election as president of COP 6. We look forward to your capable guidance for the success of COP 6. I would like also to congratulate the government and the people of the kingdom of the Netherlands for hosting this world climate conference. My delegation is quite pleased with the excellent facilities and hospitality that is extended to us here at The Hague.

From the onset, The Kingdom of Swaziland would like to fully associate itself with the statement made by Nigeria on behalf of the developing country Parties and by Burkina Faso on behalf of the Africa group.

Mr. President

Since the discovery of the man made green house gas effect, more than a hundred years ago, the whole world has embarked on a large-scale "experiment" with nature and the global climate. This "experiment" is irreversible in human time scale and is certainly one of the biggest threats to civilization and lives of millions of people worldwide. Scientists continue warning the world that the rising concentration of these green house gases in the atmosphere is overriding the perceived world climate natural variation to an irreversible climate change, giving rise to the most serious environmental threat the world ever faces, as more frequent floods, storms and droughts are expected to wreak havoc around the world with unpredictable consequences for the lives of mankind.

The Framework Convention for Climate Change acknowledges that the largest share of historical and current emissions of green house gases has originated from developed countries; that per capital emissions in developing countries are still relatively low and it is still expected that the share of global emissions originating from developing countries will grow to meet their social and development needs.

Developed Country Parties pledged to reduce their human induced green house gas emissions to 1990 level by the year 2000. They committed themselves to take all practicable steps to finance the transfer of environmental sound Technologies, particularly to developing countries and give full consideration to actions necessary to meet specific needs and concerns of developing countries arising from adverse effect of climate change and the impact of the implementation of developed countries response measures.

At the fourth conference held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Parties set themselves a two-year deadline for the strengthening of the UNFCCC implementation and preparing for the future entry into force of the Kyoto protocol. Today, Mr. President we are all here in The Hague with the whole world watching, to witness the outcome of this two year period.

Mr. President.

The kingdom of Swaziland is committed to fulfilling its commitment under the convention, but in doing so, the overriding principle is that of poverty eradication. Article 4.7 of the convention indicate that the implementation of the convention including the Kyoto protocol will take into account economic and social development as well as poverty eradication to be the first and overriding priorities of the developing countries parties.

The convention set forth ongoing commitments for developed country Parties, which are significant to developing country Parties that have no financial and institutional capacity to address the problem of climate change. These include Article 4.5, 4.8 and 4.9 of the convention. The kingdom of Swaziland lies in a region that is most vulnerable to climate change owing to the wide spread poverty, recurrent droughts, floods, inequitable land distribution and dependence on agriculture. We note with disappointment, the unwillingness of some of the developed country parties to fulfill their commitments under the convention.

A number of important decisions must be taken here in The Hague to see the Kyoto Protocol coming into force in the near future. Regarding the issues of Technology transfer, capacity building, financial and technical assistance to developing countries, as referred both in the convention and the Kyoto protocol, no party should be left out and emphasis should be on adaptation technologies for developing countries. We look forward to agreements here in The Hague that would strengthen developing countries' capacity to cope with efforts to combat climate change, while aiming at meeting the overall objectives of both the convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr. President

The Kyoto Protocol mechanism should be based on equity. The primary means of Annex 1 Parties to achieve their quantified emission reduction commitment under the Kyoto protocol should be through domestic action. Utilization of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) by Annex 1 parties should only be supplementary to their domestic actions and compliance should be governed by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, with legally binding mechanism and procedures.

The issues of land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) are complex in the least, but their activities must not change the expected physical impact upon climate change of the Kyoto protocol, which is equivalent to Annex 1 Parties reducing their emissions by at least 5% with respect to the 1990 levels within their budget periods. By allowing Annex 1 parties to utilize LULUCF activities in meeting their emission reduction commitments should not replace this primary focus and should only be undertaken in a manner, which ensures real and permanent reductions in green house gas emissions.

Mr. President

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) council of Ministers have adopted the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol and encouraged member countries to make effort in that respect. The Kingdom of Swaziland has started the process of ratifying the Kyoto Protocol and expects to deposit its ratification before midyear 2001.

I thank you Mr. President