

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR
RONALDO MOTA SARDENBERG,
MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
OF THE
FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL
ON THE OCCASION OF THE
SIXTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE,
THE HAGUE, NOVEMBER 2000

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election as President of this Conference and to thank the Dutch Government and people for their warm hospitality. You may count on the full cooperation of the Brazilian delegation to bring this meeting to a successful conclusion.

We are aware that the difficulties ahead of us will be hard to overcome. These difficulties are not only of a political nature, but they also stem from awesome technical complexity on many of the issues we have to resolve and which were identified in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, adopted only two years ago. We are convinced however that with hard work and political

will this Conference, under your leadership, will live up to the expectations of the international community as a whole.

Global Climate Change, as a result of human activities, affects all peoples throughout the world, but particularly it affects those of the developing countries, the vast majority of which lack the means to cope with the consequences of the rise in the temperature of the Earth. It is indeed ironic that those who are and will suffer the most have very little or no responsibility for the levels of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, which are the result of the past and current emissions of developed countries, where unsustainable patterns of production and consumption unfortunately still prevail.

Brazil and many other developing countries are taking significant measures which contribute to mitigating climate change. In my country programs of energy conservation and the use of biomass as a source of fuel are only examples of what we are doing. We take very seriously the obligations assumed under the Convention, one of the pillars of which is the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Just before the opening of this Conference President Fernando Henrique Cardoso chaired the first

meeting of the Brazilian Forum on Global Climate Change, intended to promote the interaction among several sectors of the society and particularly among stake holders on the main challenges posed by climate change. On the occasion, President Cardoso pointed out that the issue, perhaps more than any other, underlines the need for a planetary citizenship, a citizenship which has to be translated into concrete measures and innovative approaches to tackle the dimensions of our challenge.

But then one has only to regret that some of those who are supposed to take the lead in the mitigation of climate change, the developed world, instead of reducing their emissions as required by the Kyoto Protocol, are set on a dangerous path of emissions growth which makes the results of the Conference of the Parties even more important. Important and strong decisions lie ahead of us. They should ensure the environmental integrity of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the Kyoto Protocol. We should avoid the temptation of allowing the Kyoto targets to be met by accepting easy solutions with no impact on the anthropogenic emissions which are the only concerns of the Convention and of the Protocol.

One of the highest priorities of the Brazilian Government is the sustainable management of our forests and the conservation of our biological diversity. We have a unique satellite-based system of real-time monitoring of deforestation in the vast Amazon region, which is an essential tool for the formulation of the most adequate policies for that region. We believe it important that adequate resources be put aside, as contemplated in the relevant provisions of the Convention and of the Protocol, for the conservation of forest in developing countries.

We fully expect that the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention will succeed in:

- (a) The establishment of the Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism, and the adoption of its terms of reference. Brazil is willing to continue to cooperate toward the full implementation of the CDM by serving on the Board;
- (b) The adoption of the rules needed for the operation of the other Protocol mechanisms;
- (c) The establishment of a compliance regime, with mandatory consequences;
- (d) The adoption of very strict principles for the consideration of the land-use, land-use change

and forestry sector, in order to ensure that compliance with the Kyoto commitments will have the same effect upon climate as if the Annex I Parties had their emissions reduced by at least 5% with respect to their 1990 levels. At the same time, having recourse to the land-use and forestry sector must not produce perverse social or environmental effects;

- (e) The adoption of rules for the implementation of Annex I commitments under the Convention and the Protocol in the field of capacity building, technology transfer and new and additional financial resources for the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

The future of generations to come is at stake. In Kyoto a small step forward was taken. Much more remains to be done. The implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action is our task now. Let us join efforts to achieve that goal.

Thank you very much