

**THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED
NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
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STATEMENT BY DR.TS.ADYASUREN

**MINISTER FOR NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT
OF MONGOLIA**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you Mr. Hiroshi Ohki on your election as President of the Third Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and for your great efforts to guiding this important forum on global climate change issues.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Japan for their kind invitation to host this Session in the beautiful and historic city of Kyoto, and for the excellent arrangements that have been made here.

Taking this opportunity, I also would like to express my appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Estrado-Oyuela, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc group on the Berlin Mandate for his great job in preparing the basic documents on the Protocol or Another Legal Instrument for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

Mr. President,

It is a time for all of us to take concrete actions to address the problem of global climate change.

Even if all Parties were to stabilize their carbon dioxide and other GHG emissions now, concentrations in the atmosphere would still continue to increase and there would be little chance of avoiding a doubling or even tripling of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere. If we do not pursue an active climate policy, the temperature on earth is likely to increase by a global average of 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the next century.

Discussions during the subsidiary bodies meeting and this COP indicate that there are two barriers standing in the way of achieving the objective of the Convention.

The first is that some developed countries, attempting to meet commitments under the agreement currently being negotiated, are saying that reducing emissions will be difficult and may damage their economies.

Developing country parties have already made it clear that their willingness to undertake obligations in limiting emissions is contingent on the Annex 1 parties taking the lead in reducing emissions. This position is integral part both of the Convention and the Berlin Mandate.

It is thus vital for the Annex 1 parties to take on, and achieve substantial emission reductions soon in order to show that they are taking a lead. Only then will there be a reasonable prospect of stabilizing GHG concentrations in the atmosphere.

We would like to encourage any ways and means for framing and achieving these commitments. Therefore, we would like to support the proposal that quantified targets should be legally binding. Emissions should be measured with high accuracy, and an international agreement on reasonable and fair measurement methods is required.

Furthermore, we should negotiate a clear protocol or other legal instrument with legally binding targets for substantial reduction of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. Mongolia supports a strong, reduction target. We believe that strong legally binding reduction targets will create the necessary signals to the market so that climate change is integrated into decision making at all levels of society.

At the same time, Mongolia recognizes that developing countries should take actions under their National Action Plans for mitigation of GHG emissions.

Mr. President,

I would like to emphasize the fact that most effects of global climate change are negative for Mongolia. As said in the report of the IPCC on regional climate change, arid and semi-arid Asia could face exacerbated water scarcity. Due to its limited economic and social capacity for adaptation, Mongolia is one of the countries which is most vulnerable to climate change in the region. Preliminary findings of the impact assessment on bio-physical components show that agriculture, especially livestock and water resources, are the most vulnerable sectors to climate change in Mongolia. These sectors are the major economic sectors of the country. Therefore, Mongolia is concerned about possible negative climate change impacts and the most measures needed to be undertaken for today and for the future.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, I would like to note that we must use this opportunity to strengthen the Climate Change Convention and develop a strong protocol which brings us closer to the ultimate objective of this treaty. We should fulfill the Berlin Mandate and agree upon a legally binding GHG reduction protocol.

We have to understand that any delay of action now will only make the problems worse, and make future solutions more difficult. We should not leave today's problems for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you.