

**Seminar on Informal Exchange of Information**  
**May 16 – 17, 2005**

**Saudi Arabia's Statement**

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Co-Chairs, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we are at a point of open dialogue and confidence building on the implementation of the convention which has been with us for over 10 years now, and the Kyoto protocol which came into force early this year, it is only appropriate to pause and examine three main questions:

1. Where are we in terms of engagement, for both Annex I and non-Annex I Parties?
2. Where do we want to go, to reach an effective and appropriate response to climate change?
3. What do we need to do to get there?

To answer the first question, it is imperative to reaffirm the extent of engagement which all Parties agreed on:

1. Based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, Annex I Parties agreed to take the lead through concrete actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of equity related to their contribution of these gases to the atmosphere. They have started collectively under the convention through Article 4.2 (a & b) to implement such commitments.

As part of taking the lead, the 1995 Berlin Mandate required that Annex I Parties take further commitments on reducing the GHG emissions. At the same time, non-Annex I Parties were not required to take any new commitments but to only advance the existing commitments under the convention.

Even with the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, Saudi Arabia believes that Article 4.2 of the Convention and Berlin Mandate is yet to be fully implemented because the Protocol does not apply to well over 30% of Annex I emissions, therefore, we don't believe that Annex I are taking the lead to reduce their emissions nor are they demonstrating real progress in implementing their commitments under financial assistance and transfer of technology to developing countries. Thus broadening the engagement of developing countries over and beyond what was agreed on in the Convention as well as the Protocol will not honor the Berlin mandate agreement nor will it be acceptable by Saudi Arabia.

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On the other hand, non-Annex I Parties were to take commitments under Article 4.1 according to their national circumstances and priorities. All parties agreed that the implementation of non Annex I commitments depends on the availability of financial resources as well as transfer of technology from Annex I Parties. In the Kyoto Protocol, developing countries agreed to advance their commitments to honor their agreement under the Berlin Mandate, and have since worked faithfully to fulfill their commitments.

To address the second question of where do we want to go, I believe we are all in agreement that we aim to reach an effective and appropriate response to climate change.

This brings us to the most important question of how to get there?

I believe that an effective and appropriate response to Climate Change can only be accomplished by faithfully implementing the existing Articles in the Convention and its Protocol with three crucial pillars in mind:

1. All actions must be originating from Articles of the Convention
2. The balance of rights and obligations under the Convention must be maintained at all times
3. The concerns of regional groups must be acknowledged, addressed, and fully taken into account

Let me now share with you a very serious concern that Saudi Arabia has as an oil producing developing country.

Our over-riding concern is the future impacts of any policy measures taken by Annex I Parties as part of the climate regime under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. It has been our experience that despite agreements on addressing the adverse impacts of response measure, no progress has been made to implement them.

Our colleagues from Switzerland and the United Kingdom highlighted in their presentations yesterday, their concerns, as developed countries, from the impacts of climate change on their sustainable development, and emphasized on the actions and policies that they are taking in response to climate change, such as the addition of further taxes and levies on petroleum products on top of an already distorted energy market that is heavily taxing oil while subsidizing coal and nuclear.

Our concern is more significant and is twofold, because we are concerned about adverse effects of climate change such as water stress, sea-level rise and loss of arable land, as well as the impacts of the actions taken by developed countries. Such policies put us in a double jeopardy situation.

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Currently, we are very much troubled with the lack of progress in implementation of Article 4.8 of the Convention and Article 2.3 of the Kyoto Protocol whereby:

1. We believe that current implementation of Article 4.8 and the developments under decision 5/CP.7, the special climate change fund as well as the Buenos Aires program on adaptation and response measures, is not adequate and very slow. There are 3 main areas that require further development and concrete actions namely:
  - a) Modeling
  - b) Insurance, and
  - c) Economic diversification
2. Furthermore, the development of Article 2.3 of the Kyoto Protocol is very critical since it addresses developing countries concerns under different policy implementations including limiting international trade.
3. In addition, we see a positive way forward in implementing the Convention through win-win policies that aim at improving and promoting cleaner fossil fuel technology and CO2 capture and storage

In summary, even-though the climate change regime poses great challenges to sustainable development of our future generations, Saudi Arabia had faithfully become a member of the Convention and the Protocol with the understanding that our partners will fulfill their commitments to all developing country's' issues. We look forward to our partners to honor the commitments they undertook under both the Convention and the Protocol in order to establish confidence building and bridge the gap among parties.

Thank You.