

## **Statement**

### **of the delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 8th Conference of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol**

Qatar, Doha, December 5-7, 2012

Mr. Chairman  
Excellencies  
Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and gentlemen

From the date of adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and the global temperature in lower layers continues to grow, hence it is obvious that we should take expeditious and stronger measures for reduction and limitation of greenhouse gas emissions.

Adaptation to climate change is a priority for Armenia because of the high vulnerability of mountain ecosystems to climate change; as well as its geographic location in the arid zone - with no access to the sea. Therefore, Armenia is involved in the informal negotiating group of "landlocked mountainous countries". The most vulnerable sectors are agriculture, water resources and natural ecosystems.

In respect to the adaptation Armenia has declared and keeps supporting the "ecosystem approach". This approach, among other things, allows us to overcome the uncertainties in predicting climate change and provides synergies with other global and regional environmental conventions.

However there are still concerns about the availability of relevant funding for adaptation. Price reductions in the carbon market makes us look for other alternative sources rather the Adaptation Fund, which will have to enable access of 'other developing countries' to the adaptation funds given the specific vulnerability of said countries.

Regarding the Law Carbon development Armenia considers the "common, but at the same time, the differential approach" to be fair given the different levels of historical responsibility of countries for the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and its negative impact on the economy and natural ecosystems due to climate change .

With adequate financial and technical support from developed countries and following axiomatic and principles of the "green economy" Armenia, being a developing country not included in Annex I of the Convention, is ready to take certain quantitative commitments not for reduction, but for limitation of the growth of greenhouse gas emissions relative to current emissions by gradually reducing the energy intensity of GDP. After the collapse of the USSR, during the transition period the sharp economic downfall brought a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (by 70% against 1990), which currently remains almost at the same level. It is clear that said level cannot remain unchanged in future as the development of the economy may generate more emissions but yet at slower rate than economic growth due to the projected mitigation measures.

Mitigation measures per sectors are communicated through the statement of Armenia in association with the Copenhagen Accords. The above-mentioned is the firm position of Armenia in the negotiations on the Durban Platform.

The Armenian government intends to develop and adopt the National Adaptation Plan as well as the National Appropriate Mitigation Actions by 2015.

Relevant to the consensus on development of a new Protocol to the Convention on Climate Change the role of Kyoto Protocol is, and continues to be diminished. Nevertheless we keep to the position that at present Kyoto Protocol should sustain and its future should be determined by the content of the new Protocol.

In connection with the possibility of taking quantitative commitments in future we should consider the feasibility of CDM, particularly given the current carbon market prices.

However, we believe that the CDM should be maintained, the improvements of the mechanism must enforce the control over the principle of additionality, clear rules to avoid double accounting and leakage and strong compliance with the criteria of sustainable development of the host

party, civil society involvement as well as appeal procedure. We also consider the necessity to revise the methodological approaches of CDM projects to ensure synergy with other environmental agreements, as well as evaluation of full-cycle impact.

According to the Long Term Cooperative Action under the Convention Armenia believes that such actions should be based on ecosystem-based approach. This is also stipulated by the fact that the climate change is caused not only by the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, but also by disturbance of the natural ecosystems that, among other things, leads to the change in the radiation and thermal balance of the earth. We consider that the target should be to limit the increase in global temperature by maximum of 1.5 degrees.

The ecosystem approach in combination with axiomatic and principles of the green economy allows in many sectors to combine actions on mitigation with those on adaptation. This will significantly increase the effectiveness of actions to address climate change and therefore this approach deserves special attention and priority.

In conclusion let me express my gratitude to the Government and people of Qatar for their hospitality and excellent organization of the Conference. We hope that the efforts of the countries gathered in Doha to prevent further climate change will not pass in vain.

Thank you for attention.