

STATEMENT OF COSTA RICA ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA

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MINISTERIAL SEGMENT
COP2

Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. With the honor of speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. President, for your admirable leadership of this meeting, whose implications touch all of humankind.

The Group of 77 and China sees important advances emerging from the Second Conference of the Parties.

At this meeting, the Second Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was presented as currently the most authoritative scientific assessment of climate change in existence, suggesting a discernible human influence on the global climate.

Also, the Group of 77 and China is pleased with the adoption of the decision on the preparation of initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties. This decision, already approved by the subsidiary bodies, is a big step forward in advancing the implementation of commitments of developing country parties in order to achieve sustainable development. Once approved by the Conference of the Parties, the formal communication of this decision to the GEF Council will help to guide its decision making and therefore advance the implementation of the Convention.

Still, however, it must be said that most of our work lies ahead of us. Perhaps most evidently, it is clear that many of the measures taken so far by the developed countries are inadequate. This was confirmed by the President of the First Conference of the Parties, Dr. Angela Merkel, who pointed out that the results of the review of the first national communications of the Annex I Parties are a matter of concern, since the countries with the higher emissions of greenhouse gases expect their emissions by the year 2000 to be above their 1990 levels.

Developed country Parties, in accordance with the Berlin Mandate, should strengthen their commitments in Article 4.2(a) and (b) of the Convention. These commitments must include the elaboration of policies and measures and the establishment of quantified emissions limitations and reduction objectives within specified timeframes for their anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. Developed countries are falling short of their commitments to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions, and they are setting a bad precedent by evading their responsibilities rather than assuming the leadership they have committed to under Article 4.2 of the Convention.

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, let me take this opportunity here today to speak frankly with you. As we all know, the Convention represents a carefully laid-out balance based upon the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. However, throughout these negotiations, the Group has felt pressured by Annex I countries to go beyond their responsibilities. In spite of the Group's considerable patience and flexibility, it is clear that this relationship is threatening to disturb the Convention's delicate political balance. It is the opinion of the Group that the ultimate source of this disturbance is the unwillingness of most of the Annex I countries to fulfill their obligations under the Convention to return to 1990 emissions levels by the year 2000. Consequently, and strategically, there has been an attempt to divert the focus of the deliberations away from this fact. This cannot continue.

It is worth recalling in this forum that the largest share of historical and current global emissions of greenhouse gases has originated from developed countries. The extent to which developing country Parties will effectively