

Statement of the Armenian delegation at the 11th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention and the First Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

Montreal, December 2005

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen!

It took ten years upon the entry into force of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to put into action the first legitimately mandatory document, namely, the Kyoto protocol, which appears as a step towards meeting the ultimate objective of the Convention.

Taking into consideration the extreme complexity of the issue of global greenhouse gases emissions reduction in the context of social and economic development, ten years seems to be a short period. At the same time, considering rapid pace of accumulation of carbon in the atmosphere as well as the consequences of global warming it is obvious that the greenhouse gases emissions reduction and limitation measures must be reinforced and accelerated.

As a non Annex I country, Armenia does not have any quantitative obligation regarding greenhouse gases emissions reduction or limitation and participates in this process within the framework of the Clean Development Mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol only indirectly.

Armenia has been actively participating in Clean Development Mechanism projects implementation. The Designated National Authority for CDM has been appointed, one project is registered by the CDM Executive Board on November 28, 2005; another one is at its validation stage.

A number of measures aimed at reinforcement of the CDM process in the country have been developed since the latter is viewed as a promising mechanism for attracting financial means for supporting sustainable development in the sectors of economy and social development were regular investments are hampered. In a word, we consider this process holding much promise. At the same time there are barriers preventing CDM from development, which must be overcome. These, in the first place, are sophisticated and costly procedures of project approval; low awareness of state and private sectors, general public, and lack of local professional expertise for identification and development of project proposals. Innovativeness and complexity of procedures and criteria of CDM project realization requires more activities aimed at capacity building within the framework of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol. Our experience shows that the best results can be achieved by the combination of staff trainings with development and realization of concrete projects in the country. In this regard we would like to express our gratitude to the European Commission for implementation of CDM capacity building project in Armenia and UNDP Armenia for their readiness to join efforts in CDM capacity development as well as general stimulation of the process of climate technology transfer including adaptation technologies.

Moving on to Armenia's position on further implementation of the Convention, we would like to stress the necessity of consolidation of all countries efforts with respect to the objective of the Convention stated in Article 2. We believe that the "differentiated"

approach is fair enough as it considers both varying degrees of responsibility for global climate change impact and disparity in economic and social development of different countries. We repeatedly informed about our position on possible participation of Armenia in greenhouse gases emissions limitation efforts. This position was declared in the First National Communication, and we are willing to develop it in the future and reflect it in the Second National Communication. This position entails the idea that developing countries or non Annex I countries could voluntarily take on certain quantitative obligations on the greenhouse gases emissions reduction or limitation under the condition of provision of assistance from developed countries, as well as access to the two flexibility mechanisms, namely, Emissions Trading and Joint Implementation. At this, such countries will maintain the status of developing countries or non Annex I countries.

Such an approach appears to be fair, promising and may become a subject of discussions and negotiations for the Post Kyoto period.

Thank you for your attention.