

Statement by Chinese Delegation on linkage between climate change and sustainable development

4/5/2006

Thank you, Chair.

First of all, I'd like to thank the panelists' speeches which provide useful introduction for our discussion. China views it essential to address climate change in the context of sustainable development. So we are pleased to see CSD listed climate change as a thematic issue. Climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a development issue. The essence of addressing it is to achieve sustainable development.

China's per capita greenhouse gas emission is less than one third of that of developed countries and belongs to emission for survival, but we attach great importance to this issue. China has adopted sustainable development as a strategy to address climate change and to achieve development. For example, China's newly adopted Five-Year Program for **National Economic Development** stresses that energy consumption intensity per unit GDP shall decrease by 20% in the next five years. Other detailed efforts of China in this regard can be found in our national report. It shows the firm determination of us to take the sustainable path in the future.

Mr. Chair,

Climate change is a common challenge the whole world faces. With regard to the next step to address this issue, I would like to stress the following points:

First, basis. It's necessary to uphold the guiding role of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, and observe such principles as "common but differentiated responsibilities" enshrined in the Convention. Developed countries should take the lead in reducing emissions and help developing countries with capacity building in this regard.

Second, progress. We are satisfied with the outcome of the Montreal Conference. However, it's only a first step. We still have to work together to complete the negotiation of commitments of Annex I countries as soon as possible to prevent any gap between the first and second commitment period.

Thirdly, science and technology. Cooperation, multilateral and bilateral, should be strengthened to accelerate the development and dissemination of relevant technologies to promote economic development and environmental protection of developing countries.

Finally, balance. Adaptation and mitigation is the two sides of one coin. It's

necessary to consider them in a more balanced way. Many countries, esp developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Adaptation seems more and more important and urgent.

Mr. Chair,

The Delhi Declaration calls for addressing Climate Change within the context of Sustainable Development. Integrating climate change measures into national sustainable development strategy has been proved a useful tool for effectively addressing climate change without jeopardizing development. We believe that future climate regime should seek to address climate change within the context of sustainable development, rather than in isolation from it.

Thank you, Chair.