

## Informal Thematic Debate “**Climate Change as a Global Challenge**” Speech delivered by the Brazilian Delegation

“Scientific data from the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC demonstrate beyond doubt that global warming is already in course and that it has been caused by human action. According to the report, the main source of historic and current emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> is the burning of fossil fuels. Since 80 per cent of global emissions of carbon dioxide derive from combustion of fossil fuels, **it is clear that radical changes in production and consumption patterns are required.**”

Since climate change is a global challenge, international action is of the essence. In Brazil's view, concerted action must be centered in the international regime on climate change embodied in the UN Framework Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

Contrary to what was said yesterday by some speakers, **there is no expiration date for the Kyoto Protocol.** Brazil considers the Kyoto Protocol as a **cornerstone** of the international regime on climate change.

One of the most critical issues in dealing with climate change is related to equity and fairness of the international regime, as well as to the distribution of responsibilities.

This distribution of responsibilities lays on two fundamental facts: (1) **the historic responsibilities of developed countries**, which have extensively used fossil fuels since the XIX century to foster their industrial development and are responsible for the current increase in world's temperature; (2) **the greater vulnerability of developing countries**, who did little to create the problem, and who count on less resources to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

These two elements are at the core of the **principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.**

I would like, however, to underline that this principle does not exempt any party of its responsibilities. In this sense, **the effort to combat climate change must be a global one.**

In this global effort, **binding quantitative emission reduction commitments by Annex I countries** should continue to be an essential element of the future and they should be deeper in the second commitment period. **Developing countries** would not be expected to take on such commitments now, but there should be **incentives** for them to take measurable and reportable actions for reducing emissions, suited to their national needs and circumstances.

This is why in 2006, on the occasion of COP-12, Brazil presented a proposal aimed at the creation of **positive financial incentives** to support national efforts to **reduced emissions caused by deforestation** in developing countries. **This idea could be expanded to other sectors**, providing adequate flows of **financing and technology** to support actions by developing countries that are additional to those of developed countries.

Brazil, alongside with other developing countries, will be most affected by global warming. Among several negative effects, **global warming may have a huge impact on the Amazon forest, converting portions of it into a savanna.**

Brazil is developing a national plan to combat climate change in addition to actions already in place, which include extensive reliance on renewable energy. In the transportation area, our experience of 30 years in using sugar cane for producing automotive fuels turned into **the most successful biofuels initiative in the world**. Nowadays, flex-fuel vehicles in Brazil run on any mixture of gasoline and ethanol, from 0 to 100%, based only on the decision of the consumer at the pump. **Flex-fuel vehicle sales represent around 80% of total cars sold today.**

Brazil also has in place a multi-agency program to combat deforestation, with the use of a reliable satellite monitoring system. This concerted effort resulted in a **52% reduction of the rate of deforestation in the last 2 years.**

We look forward to the Bali Conference as an important step in the building of the future of the climate change regime. It is our hope to adopt in Bali a Roadmap, setting clear timetables and processes in order to allow us to conclude negotiations by 2009.

The Brazilian Government considers climate change an urgent global problem that requires a global response. **Different countries bear different responsibilities for causing the problem and should face the next steps in the international effort accordingly. We are doing our part and we are ready and engaged to do even more."**