

STATEMENT
BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
DURING THE INFORMAL THEMATIC DEBATE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
“CLIMATE CHANGE AS A GLOBAL CHALLENGE”
(2 AUGUST 2007)

Madam President,

At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to you for convening these informal thematic debates on climate change. Moldova associates itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the distinguished representative of Portugal on behalf of the European Union and I will further draw attention to some issues of particular relevance to my country.

As a Party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Republic of Moldova has undertaken the commitment to contribute to international efforts to moderate the anthropogenic impact on global climate. In this respect, following the ratification of UNFCCC, the National Commission, a coordinating authority, for implementation of the commitments under the Convention and of the mechanisms and commitments of the Kyoto Protocol has been established. On the national level, activities in various areas were implemented, such as preparation of the greenhouse gas inventory, estimation of different sectors vulnerability to climate change, development of actions for abatement and adaptation to climate change, as well as educational, training and awareness building programs addressed to country's population, to the local decision makers, but particularly directed to younger generations.

After the adherence to the UNFCCC, the First National Communication has been prepared, a report with a main objective to inventory the GHG emissions and to draft a plan of actions with regard to alleviating the impact of the climate change on the environment and on social-economic activities. Additionally, measures directed to rehabilitation, restructuring and modernization of major economic sectors, with the increase of energy efficiency and energy conservation through the implementation of efficient technologies with a minimal impact on the environment, with the purpose to further reduce the GHG emissions, were included in different Governmental development programs.

Also Moldova is a non-Annex 1 Party to the UN FCCC and we have no commitment to mitigate the Green House Gas emissions, the emissions from the industrial sector in my country were reduced by more than 25% during the last 15 years.

The Moldovan Government has launched programs in the use of bio-fuel technologies, biomass heating projects being under implementation in a number of rural communities. According to our scientists, the energy potential of the biomass in Moldova varies between 650-900 thousands t.c.e. yearly.

Moldova is taking serious actions to improve the situation in the forestry sector. Compared to European countries Moldova is characterized by a reduced index of forest areas and our priority objective is to gradually increase the afforested areas and to provide an optimal forest management. In this regard, a national campaign has been launched and carried out recent years. This year, during the Day of greening, some 29 000 trees and 15 000 bushes have been planted.

Madam President,

The climate change puts a heavy pressure and challenges our perception of the world around us. Regretfully, we have to recognize that till now international efforts aiming to mitigate the effects of climate change remain rather modest. During the first part of this year, we have registered tens of numbers of calamities in different parts of the globe; the human and material toll from the droughts, fires, hurricanes, floods has mounted to high hundreds, with many thousands having their lives disrupted by weather conditions that have smashed records in many countries.

In Moldova the weather this year was particularly harsh, the average air temperature exceeding the norms by 3-4 degrees Celsius, and hitting records of 40-41 degrees. This situation was aggravated by extremely low quantity of precipitations; the rainfall constituted only 6-50% of the climatic norm. Drought in Moldova affected over 80% of the country's farm lands, seriously compromising the economy of our country and affecting the ordinary people.

To various extents climate change affects all the people of the world. And most of the affected are in poor countries that have little or no means to do anything about it. As you, Madam President, mentioned yesterday, and I quote "the cruel irony of climate change is that the countries least responsible for it will be worst affected – economic growth and poverty reduction will be undermined". We are in debt to the future generations and a common effort of all nations is needed to overcome at least some of the climate change problems and for adapting to the factors that have no solution today.

Moldova is looking forward to the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the third session of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in December and places great hope that member states will succeed in successful negotiations of new arrangements, thus moving beyond the Kyoto Protocol and leading to a global reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you for your attention.