

Video-address of H.E. Mr. Victor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine,
to the Summit on Climate Change

(22 September 2009, New York)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sincerely thankful to the honorable Secretary-General of our Organization, Mr. Ban Ki-moon for initiating such an important and timely meeting.

Ukraine supports all the global and regional efforts aimed at overcoming the environmental problems.

Nature doesn't recognize state boundaries.

However, it responds to the behavior of the people and nations in a sensitive and painful way.

Our common home demands from us prudence but even more an essential care.

Ukraine calls on the world to hear this demand and to get down to an extremely complicated but ultimately necessary, wise and comprehensive task of formulating the modern code of human existence on the Earth, a document composing the common norms and obligations which would be the World Environmental Constitution.

We should not be afraid of hardships or time-consuming negotiations. Let's think of the future. It is the main task.

The Environmental Constitution could become the foundation of the new global ecologic policy for 21th century, defining the commitments of the people and nations with respect to the nature and taking care of the rational management of resources, preventing the pollution and the environmental destruction.

We suggest discussing establishing a global environmental organization with universal membership.

Ukraine abides by its commitments including those determined by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

We elaborated continuous chain of the yearly inventories of the green house emissions and strictly stick to the National Implementation Plan.

The successful conclusion of the intergovernmental talks on the new post-Kyoto mechanisms is currently our common primary task.

In the run-up to the UN Copenhagen Conference on Climate Change we should get ready in a constructive way and clearly define our positions.

Its goal goes beyond any domestic considerations.

We need a just, efficient and scientifically grounded mechanism of improving the world's climate right away.

We need new technologies to curb in the green house emissions.

We should find substitutes for non-renewable resources.

The key to tackle the climate change problem is precisely in this domain.

I am confident that the international community led by the United Nations is capable of actively endorsing all qualified quests for necessary energy sources.

It is a guiding line to support by practical actions all acceptable explorations of necessary energy sources, including alternative, namely solar and eolic power, as well as clean, safe and peaceful nuclear power.

Ukraine is fully integrated into these processes.

We are ready to share our experiences.

At the same time we will continue to remind the humankind of Chornobyl.

In 2011 we will mark the 25th anniversary of the largest man-made disaster in the history.

Despite the time passed and the apparent tranquility, its impact and threat are still acute.

We rigorously care for the improvement of the safety system at the Chornobyl power plant.

Ukraine appreciates all the international assistance rendered and calls upon all partners to bring the task to conclusion and complete the construction of a new safe confinement "Shelter".

This is our common responsibility.

We count on solidarity, as it is in the interests of each and all of us.

The United Nations were established to counter the threats of war.

Conflicts are not the only source of new threats to humanity.

These threats are stemming from our attitude to nature which gave us life.

The United Nations should guarantee the environmental safety of the Earth and humankind.

It is my sincere hope that our common efforts will succeed, that we will be strongly united by wisdom and our will for life.

Thank you for the attention.