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Russian Federation

Statement by the Adviser to the President of the Russian Federation,
Special envoy for climate
Alexander Bedritsky
UNFCCC COP 16/CMP 6
(Cancun, Mexico, 9 December 2010)

Madame President,
Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations,
Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have come to meet in Cancun one year after the UN Climate Summit in Copenhagen. Since then there have been several negotiation sessions. However, it should be recognized that there have not been significant advancements in negotiations.

There are different ways of evaluating the outcomes of Copenhagen. Yet, the objective reality cannot be ignored: if we truly wish to make progress in our negotiations, then we must anchor countries' pledges for possible commitments, which were submitted within the process of association to the Copenhagen Accord. Therein lies the key to success. For its part, the Russian Federation is prepared to confirm, within this context, its commitment to reduce emissions by 15-25 percent by 2020 compared to 1990 levels.

The Kyoto Protocol laid the practical basis for international co-operation. It generated real mechanisms for countries' common efforts to combat global climate change. But that was only a first, limited step in mitigating climate change. Today we need to enhance our common efforts. Yet we must not overlook the fact that the world has changed: the list of OECD countries, which was the basis for Annex I of the Convention in 1992, has grown longer. According to the International Energy Agency, in 2007, cumulative CO2 emissions from the energy sectors of Annex B Countries under the Kyoto Protocol surpassed 8 Gt; emissions from G77 countries and China surpassed 13.5 Gt. Emissions from developed countries, non-parties to the KP, was some 6 Gt.

Russia has repeatedly stated, including at the highest political level, that the adoption of commitments for the Second Commitment Period under the Kyoto Protocol, as it stands now, would be neither scientifically, economically, nor politically effective. For example, the blocking of the so-called "Belarus Amendment" or the blocking of the proposal from the Republic of Kazakhstan, who wishes to become a party to Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol for the First Commitment Period, demonstrate an unfair approach to the assessment of

commitments of some Annex B countries. And that is only a non-exhaustive list of examples of the ineffectiveness of the Kyoto Protocol.

Given the aforementioned, Russia will not participate in the Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol. However, we do believe that it would be judicious to continue to use Kyoto Protocol market mechanisms, including in a new agreement. The results of the activities of countries under the First Commitment Period should be accounted for in a new agreement. This will ensure the responsibility of countries for the fulfillment of their obligations. In other words, it will ensure the environmental integrity of the agreement and of the overall implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.

The long, parallel, two-track negotiation process (on the Convention and on the Protocol) testifies to the need to radically rethink approaches, which should focus on merging the negotiation tracks and arriving at a single, universal agreement. Practically speaking, the negotiation process is going through a transitional period: it is changing from one legally binding instrument to another. The key political significance of Cancun lies in the adoption of agreed decisions on Fast Start financing, on the beginning of the technology transfer process, MRV, REDD, adaptation, as well as in anchoring the aforementioned pledges of developed and developing countries in emissions reduction.

Practically speaking, these decisions are all elements of the transition to a new agreement, which will be focused on broadening international cooperation for the achievement of long-term goals.

Russia consistently advocates the extension of the list of emissions-reduction-commitment countries and the inclusion of fast-growing economies on it.

Countries' participation in global climate-change mitigation efforts should take in due account their national specificities. A new agreement should reflect the specific circumstances of countries with economies in transition by providing them—along with other needy countries—with access to financial and technological assistance, as well as capacity building, to foster the increase of their national potentials to reduce anthropogenic stress on the climate.

The climate problem is a multifaceted one. It's effective solution will only be possible if based on a comprehensive consideration of all factors. For Russia, as well as for many other countries for that matter, one of the most important of these factors is the adequate accounting of the boreal forests as natural GHG sinks.

Russia, pursuant to its commitments, actively works to counter climate change. We recognize the potential threats posed by global climate change to the people and economy of our country, as well as to those of other states and regions of the world. The facts clearly state that our country is a leader in GHG emissions reductions. Russia will continue to actively participate in all processes and with all parties, without any exception, which genuinely contribute to reducing anthropogenic stress on the climate.

I thank you for your kind attention.