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[Loose Materials Re: Statement of Mr. Carlos Saul Menem President of the Republic of Argentina at the UNFCCC (U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change) Fourth Conference of the Parties, Buenos Aires, 11/11/98]

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**STATEMENT OF MR. CARLOS SAUL MENEM
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA
AT THE UNFCCC FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Buenos Aires. November 11, 1998**

The Republic of Argentina is deeply honored to host this world meeting, with representatives from all over the world and expresses through its President the warmest greetings, and full of hope.

Work done so far, show the crucial work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The Republic of Argentina is honored to have signed the Convention, and presently, the Kyoto Protocol is in the process of ratification at the National Congress, already having had the approval of the Senate.

As I maintained at the Earth Summit hold in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, our purpose is to erase the false option between economic growth and environmental protection.

The Argentine economy has grown accumulative 52% since 1990, due to the opening up and the modernization and the strength of the fiscal and monetary institutions of our country.

Argentina is one of the countries in the world that have grown the most in this decade and nowadays we participate competitively in the most dynamic circuit of the world economy.

Moreover, within the context of the international financial crisis unleashed in July 1997, Argentina has continued to grow, and has increased permanently, the levels of its reserves and the deposit of its financial system, and the flow of direct foreign investments has also increased sensibly.

These investments grow, presently, at a rate of approximately US\$ 800 millions per month, and an investment of over of than US\$ 70.000 millions are expected from 1998 to 2002.

Argentina achieved these goals after ten years of efforts, with a development that moves to cleaner options.

During this decade, the economy grew at an average rate of a 6% accumulative per year. The increase of the greenhouse gases per capita have only been less than 1% during this period.

In the next two years, Argentina will become a thermoelectric energy producer, which is the least polluting at the world scale.

- For the year 2000, the main sector of the thermoelectric generation, will convert to cycle combined, with a thermal performance superior to 55%, as a consequence of US\$ 2,000 millions investments already completed or in an advanced degree of execution.

- As a consequence of these changes, the thermal generation in Argentina, will have the minor average level of contamination with carbon dioxide, than the one in any other country of the world.

Permanently, we try to achieve these goals of economic development and integration in the global economy as a country concerned in the protection of the environment and in keeping our competitiveness.

This is not aspiration that has emerged of ethical duty, we strongly believe that this is the only sustainable way to grow facing the globalization of the world economy.

That is why, I stress that the option between economic growth and environmental protection is false, and that only their articulation offers an stable perspective, of sustained and integrated progress for mankind.

This is our commitment to this present world and all of the future generations: we want to preserve the planet and at the same time offer an horizon of economic growth, progress and hope for all.

The planet is our home, and to preserve it is our responsibility of one or all.

We can not ignore the warning signals that nature has given as this year, in which the UNFCCC Fourth Conference of the Parties is taking place. The planet, painfully is issuing a warning call to all mankind.

I need also to express our deeply sorrow for our brothers and sisters from Central America, affected by terrible hurricanes and their painful consequences.

Climate catastrophes such as floods, tornadoes, droughts, forest fires, that causing thousands of deaths and leaving hundred of thousands of people homeless, are without doubt a world responsibility, of all and every country without any distinction or whatsoever.

Being a country with a clean growth, is the only sustainable way to grow and in the conditions that world economic globalization imposed today.

I would like strongly to point out here, that the agriculture subsidies of develop countries promotes increases the carbon emissons. The systematic use of this kind of subsidies produces severe environmental damages.

A strategy of clean development is the best and most effective tool that emerging countries have against the non-tariff barrier protectionism of developed countries.

We are convinced that this will be the position that the world community will adopt in the years to come, without any difference of sectors.

In this historic phase of mankind, the birth of universalism in practical, political e institutional terms, not only the highly developed countries might contribute to the creation of a New World order.

Also, the emerging countries also share the responsibility to assume their own initiatives to face and solve every challenge of the 21st century, which is about to dawn.

Argentina does not wish to make the effort outside the system. We want to establish the goals in the frame of the Convention. We have not been able to achieve this goal, but we will work hard from now on in order to do so in the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Meanwhile, we will define our targets that will determine how we will grow with minimum carbon dioxide emissions.

These goals will be defined with the participation of every social sector, through a broad debate at the national level and in the next Conference of the Parties, we shall express our commitment for the period 2008-2012.

We shall continue working to achieve that countries like the Republic of Argentina, that also wish to commit their own targets, are able to take part of all the mechanism of the system.

This implies the creation of a new way in the Convention, which would allow all the countries to participate of all the mechanisms of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.

Argentina assumes this commitment and will honor that responsibility of the people of the earth.

As Lisandro de La Torre, one of the major Argentinean politicians of the XX century said:

" Those who know where they are going, and follow the straight path, there will not be travelling this path alone for long".