



STATEMENT H.E. DR. EMIL SALIM,
STATE MINISTER FOR POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Mr. Chairman,

May I join the previous speakers in congratulating you upon your election and in expressing our gratitude to the Government and people of Brazil for their warm welcome and for the excellent arrangements for the Conference.

Mr. Chairman,adies and Gentlemen,

Today, twenty years after the Stockholm Conference, we are assembled at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in order to cross yet another bridge of history, to try to trace a path into the future. At the onset, allow me to invoke God's blessings upon all of us, may that we can arrive at an accord and a concord in our common efforts to ensure a future for us and for our children.

The Rio Declaration.

Because the objectives of our Conference include both the environment and development, both aspects must be reflected in the Rio Declaration. Therefore, while affirming the responsibility to undertake global environmental action, the Declaration must also affirm the right of nations to pursue development. Only in this way will we be able to counter the destructive potential of environmental degradation and the equally terrible potential of global social and political upheavals if a portion of humanity cannot free itself from the misery of poverty and underdevelopment.

More than that, the Declaration should also pave the way to enable us to forge a new global partnership between nations and peoples, a partnership in which rights and obligations are equitably shared by all, a global partnership based on a renewed and improved division of labor between nations and an equally improved sharing of benefits and efforts between people.

Agenda 21.

While Agenda 21 is to be a common basis for common endeavours, it is more of a statement of intent than a detailed plan of action. As it is presently stands, global commonalities and national priorities must still be brought into agreement and balance. This will be a difficult process which should not be hampered nor marred by attempts of turning Agenda 21 into an instrument of conditionality imposed upon weak countries by the the stronger nations merely as a means to achieve economic gains

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or improved business opportunities and corporate profits. Agenda 21 should not be used as a means to hold development hostage.

A particular aspect of Agenda 21 pertains to the issue of forests and is reflected in the "Non Legally Binding, Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests." Rather than engaging in debates speculating about the future status of that Statement of Principles, we would rather implement those principles and let action speak for us.

Another aspect of Agenda 21 pertains to the issue of the linkage between environment, development and population. Managing that linkage is not merely a matter of managing population growth but also of population distribution and mobility. These latter aspects are in turn affected by rates of development and by the distribution of development efforts throughout the country. Further in this context a vital aspect is the enhancement of the quality of the population, the level of education attained and the skills and capabilities possessed.

The population, environment and development nexus is furthermore strongly affected by the rights possessed by individuals as they constitute a population and a society. These include, among others, the right, of men and women alike, to determine the size of their families, the right to further the interests of the communities to which they belong and other rights guaranteed under our laws. Such rights, together with the right to develop and to obtain the best possible quality of life, as well as the right to a proper social and physical environment, are part of the spectrum of human rights which we uphold.

To us, the interaction between development, environment and population is a cornerstone of our national policies. Moreover, we are convinced that our common future will depend on our ability to properly manage the linkage between the global environment, the rates and distribution of global development and global population factors.

As we are assembled here we are also to consider the adoption of two conventions which have been negotiated by their respective negotiating bodies. We are prepared to accede to both conventions in the full awareness that they need to be considerably improved upon and efforts to do so must begin immediately.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are fully aware that the generation and the sharing of new and additional resources constitute the main prerequisite to achieve any success in carrying out Agenda 21. We are also more than aware that those funds and resources must be husbanded carefully, used wisely and efficiently and, above all, allocated equitably. Funding mechanisms should not become means of conditionality, nor grounds for suspicion which would freeze us into inaction. Such mechanisms must avail themselves of all funding

options and should not become enthralled to prevailing, established interests. It is also vital that all available channels of funding be utilised and none be excluded. We should also prevent that the implementation of Agenda 21 will have to depend on a single and exclusive channel.

In utilizing the various channels of funding and in the allocation of funds we must take into account that many developing countries no longer qualify to obtain concessionary assistance. Moreover, such countries cannot yet afford the more expensive terms of loans available to them and in this context it should be kept in mind that environment-cum-development projects only yield low rates of return.

To implement Agenda 21 will require the mobilisation of resources on the part of all countries. An amount of US \$ 125 billion per annum is to be raised in foreign exchange to augment the annual equivalent of US \$ 500 billion in local currencies which is to be mobilized by the developing countries.

To raise the needed US \$ 125 billion per annum means that US \$ 70 billion in new, additional funds must be generated. This cannot be done at once and we must therefore seek agreement on the incremental amounts to be raised annually until the target is reached within the shortest possible time to be agreed upon.

In order that the developing countries can raise the local currency counterpart of the costs to implement Agenda 21 their earning capacities must be increased. This requires an expansion and acceleration of their development efforts which, in turn, requires a conducive international climate enabling an increase in trade and in investments. Steps should also be taken to ease their debt-burdens and to facilitate the transfer of technology.

Unless the transfer and sharing and technology is accelerated it will be difficult for the developing countries to pursue development along an environment-friendly path and, in general accelerate their development processes. If the developing countries cannot do so and increase their earning-capacities, the full implementation of Agenda 21 will be in jeopardy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are convinced that our joint efforts to safeguard the global environment and to pursue global development will hinge upon our ability to establish and structure a new global partnership. Equity and equality must be the base of such a partnership and the enhancement of both must be its objective.

The establishment of that partnership is hampered by prevailing realities. First is the reality of the present balance in the relations between nations which unduly favours the developed countries of the North to the detriment of the South. This has manifested itself in the flow of resources which greatly benefits the North and also in the increasing debt burdens on the

part of many countries of the South. It is also manifested in the increasing dependency of the countries of the South upon the North, a dependency further bolstered by prevailing trade patterns and protectionist spractices, by tariff regimes, by capital flows and the uneven distribution of knowledge, information and technology. It should be a shared priority of the first order to redress that imbalance in relations.

Some countries of the North also seem to entertain the persistent desire to impose not only their terms on their relations with the South. They also seem to wish to impose their views, their perceptions and interpretations of economic and social conditions and even of cultural values throughout the world. What is more saddening is that compliance to those views is utilized as conditionality in trade, financial and other relations. Such an attitude adds unnecessary strains in the general relations between countries and will hamper the emergence of freely evolving and universally held values on a broad range of issues such as human rights, nation-building and national integration, attitudes towards the disadvantaged, towards different population groups, and so on. It should be another and shared priority to oppose the unilateral imposition of a country's specific views and particular values upon others.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Whatever it is that we will be able to agree upon and to adopt must be implemented. That implementation must be carefully monitored and assessed and its progress must be carefully evaluated. In this context it should be remembered that the totality of the issues which we wish to agree upon, pertains to both development and environment. Also, that which we wish to achieve is nothing less than the full integration of environment and development; the implementation of sustainable development, linking and spanning all sectors.

This requires a mechanism, an institutionalized system of governance which should be cross-sectoral in nature and which will be capable of spanning and even transcending sectoral interests. We believe that the establishment of such a mechanism merits our priority consideration and in that context we support the notion of establishing a Council for Sustainable Development. While for administrataive and organisational purposes such a Commission could be placed under the purview of ECOSOC, for policy and substantive issues is thouse have direct access to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Because of its broad range of responsibilities and the cross-sectoral that it should perform, national representation in the Commission should be of the highest possible level.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, at the Earth Summit, but even more so in the days to