

MR. CARLOS COSTA POSADA (Colombia)  
(interpretation from Spanish): Thank you very much,  
Madam Chairwoman. Heads of State, colleagues,  
Ministers and friends,

Colombia is convinced that controlling deforestation is fundamental if we are to control climate change. Colombia is committed to this objective, and it is for this reason that we have been able to attain a great deal. For example, we have reduced our rate of deforestation from the eighties to now by 800,000 hectares per year to 100,000 hectares per year. Currently, we have more than 10 per cent of our territory, 11 million hectares, that have been declared national parks. We have decided that our Amazon region is to be conserved – 47 million hectares of Amazon forest. Eighty per cent is protected under the forest reserve concept, and 15 per cent under the National Parks system. With tax incentives, we have stimulated reforestation of more than 300 million hectares over the last six years. We have also invested in the last six years in a Colombian programme called Forest Ranger Families. We have invested \$340 million in this programme in economic compensation for families and communities that commit to controlling and reining in deforestation.

Based on this, Colombia believes that the success of REDD should include three fundamental pillars: first, resources – significant resources – stable

resources – predictable resources. Secondly, monitoring and accountability that is rigorous and reliable. And, thirdly, flexibility.

Colombia is a very large country, with different features – different social, economic and environmental features. The causes of deforestation are different throughout our country, and the strategies for controlling deforestation should also be different. Imposing national commitments has the effect of having the country move ahead at a rate of a more complex region.

For this reason, we call for a situation whereby those countries who wish to do so can participate initially at the sub-national level, moving progressively toward national commitments.

The planet can count on Colombia moving ahead with its greatest effort to control deforestation.

Thank you very much.