

REMARKS BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS MR. OCTAVIO ERRÁZURIZ GUILLISASTI

"SHARING LESSONS AND BEST PRACTICES ON SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES"

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I would like to thank our fellow panelists, Mr. Philip Parham, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, Ms. Julie Mackenzie, Senior Sustainability Advisor to the United Nations Secretariat.

I would also like to thank the Santiago Climate Exchange for their support, and to express my pleasure that their busy schedule of commitments in North America have allowed them to join us today."

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

We have the honour to be here today at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, in the presence of various authorities, delegates, members of civil society and private sector, to share our experiences and best practices in the area of sustainability.

The environment, economic development and sustainability have been among the main topics on which the United Nations has made a huge and valuable contribution over the past 30 years.

2012 is especially important as regards sustainability. The Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) will be held this June. We hope that Rio+20 will be a precious venue where agreement can be reached on the bases for economic and social development that is sustainable, responsible, and respectful of our common future.

The United Nations is the largest and most representative inter-governmental process where sustainability has been on the agenda for decades. What the Chilean Mission to the United Nations would like to stress today is that it is possible - and also very necessary and urgent - for all institutions, organizations, businesses and individuals to enhance their commitment to a healthy and sustainable environment, by means of specific actions that are within the reach of all.

Just as it is true that we must find collective solutions at the global level, it is also true that such agreements must be accompanied by concrete steps at the local level.

It is in this context that Chile, which is supporting the adoption and implementation of global agreements for the protection and sustainability of the environment, wishes to share its experience with its Carbon Footprint Measurement Programme.

CARBON FOOTPRINT MEASUREMENT PROGRAMME

The Carbon Footprint Measurement Programme of the Foreign Ministry of Chile was officially launched on 8 August 2011.

It was launched by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Chile, Mr. Fernando Schmidt, in the presence of the then President of the UN

General Assembly, Mr. Joseph Deiss.

The Foreign Ministry of Chile is the second Chilean Ministry, among 16 Ministries, to embark on an undertaking of this kind. The first Ministry in Chile which measured its Carbon footprint was the Ministry of Environment.

PARTICIPATORY PROJECT

Before the Programme was launched in August 2010, the Deputy Foreign Minister of Chile met with all the trade unions and associations of Ministry staff and explained its meaning and scope.

The Programme provides for training and information for Ministry staff, which may take the form of courses, discussions or exhibitions to be coordinated with the various trade unions.

The participation of Ministry staff was always a key goal, as the initiative is an innovative measure of the Chilean public sector. It represents a change from the more traditional daily tasks of a Foreign Ministry and, in particular, is a way of reminding everyone of the important role of citizens in caring for the environment.

CARBON FOOTPRINT MEASUREMENT

As is well known, carbon footprint measurement consists of calculating the greenhouse gas emissions released into the atmosphere.

CONTENT OF THE PROGRAMME OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF CHILE

The Carbon Footprint Measurement Programme of the Foreign Ministry of Chile has three main phases:

FIRST PHASE: The carbon footprint is measured by Fundación Chile, a prestigious independent institution whose sustainability department is one of the best technically equipped in this area. Emissions for 2010 were measured for the following facilities of the Foreign Ministry of Chile:

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Headquarters in Santiago, with 17 floors and around 1,200 civil servants.
2. The premises of the Diplomatic Academy of Chile, where Chilean diplomats undergo a two-year training programme.
3. The measurements also included five diplomatic missions overseas:
 - Mission of Chile to the United Nations
 - Mission of Chile to the European Union
 - Embassy of Chile in China
 - Embassy of Chile in Brazil
 - Consulate-General of Chile in San Francisco.

SECOND PHASE: The measurements are subject to a "Verification" process by an independent third party, completely separate from the Fundación Chile and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the case of our Programme, the Verification is being done by the firm Ernst & Young.

THIRD PHASE: Action is taken to reduce emissions, based on the

carbon footprint calculations. This is the most important element of the Programme design. We want to know our carbon footprint but, above all, we want to know what we can do to reduce it. We know this means collective action.

There is also a FOURTH PHASE: To compensate or offset those emissions that cannot be reduced without impacting on our business, by the purchase of Carbon certificates.

So the steps of the Programme are three: to measure our footprint, independently verify the accuracy of that measurement, and to take steps to reduce the footprint measured.

Last year, we were fortunate enough to have the 2010 combined footprint from the 5 diplomatic missions covered by the Programme offset at no cost by certificates issued by the Santiago Climate Exchange. These certificates are issued for emissions-reducing projects implemented in Chile and certified to have met international standards. This was an important contribution from our private sector and depicts in a perfect manner Chile's wish to work in public-private partnerships when dealing with national endeavours.

This was a one-off gesture by the Santiago Climate Exchange, however, to help us get our Programme off to a good start. Our key focus from now on must be to reduce our emissions through our work systems and behaviour, before resorting to the carbon market.

RESULTS OF MEASUREMENT AT THE MISSION OF CHILE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

After several months of work, the final figure for the 2010 emissions of the Mission of Chile to the United Nations was 105.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO₂-E), of which 63.1 TCO₂-E were for scope 2 (electricity use) and 7.6 TCO₂-E were for paper use.

The global per capita figure for greenhouse gas emissions from activities related to the Mission of Chile was 3.9 TCO₂-E/person.

105 tonnes of CO₂ are equivalent to driving 420,000 kilometres in a medium-size car (about 9 km/l).

GREEN DIPLOMACY IS MODERN DIPLOMACY

With this initiative, we are reaffirming our strong commitment to caring for the environment and to Foreign Ministry accountability.

We believe that carbon footprint measurement has a practical goal: to raise awareness of the harm that our present conduct is causing the environment and to identify practical solutions within our reach for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank you.