

SUDAN MAM 1/DEC

**Statement on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN)**

**By the Republic of the Sudan, at the Opening Plenary of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of Parties (COP20)**

**Lima, Peru, 1 – 12 December 2014**

**Mr. President,**

The Republic of the Sudan has the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The African Group associates itself with the statement made by the Republic of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

**Mr. President,**

From the onset, the Group congratulates and thanks the Government and People of Peru for the wonderful organisation, welcome and hospitality we have received so far in this beautiful city of Lima. We pledge our support to your Presidency to make this COP a success on our way to a COP 21 in Paris. We also like to thank the secretariat for the support they have provided to make this a success.

We are here in Peru just after the IPCC has confirmed both the undeniable human interference with the climate system, and the accelerating impact of climate change. In this context, the African Group views our time here in Lima as critical for an agreement that will enhance our efforts towards reducing emission of greenhouse gasses, and set us on a path for addressing increased effects of climate change by the global community.

**Mr. President, on the Durban Platform,**

The African Group places great importance on progress that we make here in Lima in the negotiation of an agreement that will come into effect by 2020. We remain committed to working with you towards delivering on the mandate from Durban, through milestones we set for ourselves in Doha and Warsaw. The Durban mandate is a single undertaking; hence it is important for us to have a single decision on Workstream I, covering both the information that countries should submit in their INDC and elements of the negotiating text. We are concerned by

reference to the Warsaw decision as a mandate, and the outcome of our work on elements of the negotiating text as being a recommendation on the legal outcome of the ADP.

**Mr. President,**

As these concerns are quite fundamental and critical to the success of Lima, we have made a proposal to the ADP Co-chairs to prepare a single decision covering all Workstream I processes. This decision should be made available to all Parties by the opening plenary of the ADP tomorrow, as we see it as the only way through which we can further our work during this session. In support of the Co-chairs' proposal for parties to negotiate on text with each other, we have sought assurance from the Co-chairs that text will be projected, such that we can transparently work on it, rather than negotiating our ideas through the Co-chairs.

In further supporting your efforts for a successful COP, the African Group stands ready to participate in any consultations on the process and outcomes for the Lima conference through an open, transparent and inclusive process. And we believe that in light of the significant process concerns we have, it might be useful to have such a conversation early on this week.

On Workstream II, Mr. President, the time has come to move from ad-hoc technical expert meetings towards a technical expert process that can engage a wider range of partners, support an upward cycle of ambition and cooperation, and accelerate implementation of commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. In this regard, the African Group will be making in the coming days concrete and specific proposals outlining such a way forward - to deliver on our mandate which is: closing the pre-2020 Ambition Gap.

**Mr. President, on Finance issues,**

The African Group welcomes the pledges made by countries to provide resources for the Green Climate Fund. We urge these countries to work with the Board of the GCF to ensure timely encashment of these pledges, as well as the consideration of options for scaling up contributions to the Fund.

The African Group would like to emphasise that we need a concerted effort in Lima to unblock the political obstacles standing in the way of accelerating and increasing the delivery of climate finance to reach the goal to jointly mobilise USD100 billion per year by 2020. In that vein, our

discussions on long-term finance should address issues such: (1) the scale of climate finance to be mobilized in 2015 and 2016, (2) the opportunity to increase and expand on the sources of climate finance, and (3) how the international community will close the finance gap in the long term.

**Mr. President,**

The African Group welcomed the establishment of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change. We stand ready to fulfill the mandate of this session, which is to consider the initial two-year workplan and the composition of and the procedures for the Executive Committee and adopt a decision here in Lima.

On the other issues under the subsidiary bodies, the African Group looks forward to constructive discussion and reaching substantive decisions on the priority issues for the group such as NAPs, report of the Adaptation Committee, REDD+, technology transfer, capacity building, LDC matters and Market and Non-Market Mechanisms, as well as, response measure.

**Finally Mr. President,**

The African Group stands ready to engage constructively in this session on all important issues to achieve strong and meaningful outcomes here in Lima. The Group would like also to assure you of its full trust and support for your leadership.

**I thank you**