



**STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA
DELIVERED BY H.E. MARIA FERNANDA ESPINOSA,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HUMAN
MOBILITY OF ECUADOR, AND CHAIR OF THE G77 AND
CHINA AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF COP23
(Bonn, 16TH November 2017)**

Bula Distinguished President,

At the outset, allow me to convey the warmest greetings from the 134 Member States of the Group of 77 and China that are Parties to the UNFCCC, all of which are Parties to the Paris Agreement.

Please receive the greeting of President Lenin Moreno and of the Government and peoples of Ecuador to you Primer Minister Frank Baininarama for your clear leadership and commitment to this process, and also for having brought to this COP, the Bula and the Talanoa spirit of inclusiveness, friendliness and solidarity, which coincides in many aspects with our vision and concepts of “Living Well” and “Armony with Nature”.

Mr President,

Allow me to express our deepest solidarity with all countries that have faced extreme weather events during the recent months, which has demonstrated that the impacts of climate change will not wait until 2020, and that we need to act now, if we really want to preserve the life of our present and future generations, and protect them from the growing impacts of climate change to our peoples, women and girls, children, indigenous peoples and local communities, migrants and refugees, people with disabilities, the ecosystems and biodiversity.

In that context, our developing countries came to this COP with a constructive spirit, in spite of the uncertain geopolitical context and the attempts to address the most important global threat of this century, through the lens of a unilateral perspective.

We came here clearly committed to achieve concrete progress during this COP aiming to continue advancing the Work Program of the Paris Agreement towards its completion, while continuing to enhance the full implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, without any renegotiation or reinterpretation of their principles and provisions. This means, in accordance with the principles of equity and the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

The presence of so many leaders from our developing world, is a clear reaffirmation of multilateralism, and a powerful signal that our countries are and have always been part of the solution to this global threat, but also that we need sufficient support in finance, technology transfer and development, and capacity building for developing countries. However, the completion of that work cannot be done from scratch, but on the basis of a solid foundation of action and support to developing countries, as part of an enhanced pre2020 implementation and ambition.

Therefore, one of the main elements of success at this COP and its follow up, would be a clear decision on the follow up of pre-2020 implementation and ambition, that includes a stocktake on where we are, in relation to the pre2020 work, including in the particular context of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Kyoto Protocol.

Mr President,

Our world is in distress from the extreme weather events caused by climate change – destructive hurricanes, fires, floods, droughts, melting ice, and several other threats to our agriculture, food security, health and our overall development; and yet, the world is still not clear when the Doha Amendment will enter into force, when we will start setting a new collective quantified goal from the insufficient and uncertain floor of USD 100 billions per year, and when our needs and priorities are going to be taken seriously into account.

Nevertheless, along with the decision on pre2020, we believe that other factors of success can be added to this COP, and that is the establishment of the “Suva Expert Dialogue”, as a space for addressing effectively loss and damage resulting from extreme and slow onset weather events related to climate change, and as an important step towards the full implementation of Article 8 of the Paris Agreement and relevant decisions of the UNFCCC.

Likewise, we are very proud that our Group of countries was able to contribute to a longstanding aspiration of our local communities and indigenous peoples, so that no longer are considered mere observers of climate change and climate action. The establishment of the “Facilitative Working Group of the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Platform” and the development of its workplan are fundamental and concrete steps towards for the full operationalization of the Platform for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on climate change action in a holistic and integrated manner

We are very satisfied as well about the progress achieved in agriculture, capacity building, education, training and public awareness, public participation and public access to information; common metrics; and several other important areas for our countries.

Nonetheless, our Group is greatly concerned over the lack of progress on all finance issues and the lack of political will from our partners to advance on these issues and for the application of unilateral measures that affect the capacities of certain countries to finance their efforts in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. We require concrete progress in climate finance and certainty and predictability on the provision and mobilization of financial resources that will enable us to implement the Paris Agreement. On the contrary, several of our countries have experienced the unilateral application of eligibility criteria that is not agreed, limiting therefore the access of funding to developing countries under the GCF and GEF, and indicating a clear departure from the letter and spirit of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

We also trust that this COP can deliver on a decision that ensures that the Adaptation Fund will serve the Paris Agreement.

The evidence of the increasing occurrence and severity of weather events and the costs involved, constitutes in itself a reaffirmation of the importance that our countries assign to adaptation. Therefore, we hope that in the process towards COP24, we can make more progress in all the different issues of adaptation, including on the guidance on the continuous and enhanced international support that shall be provided to developing countries.

Mr President,

We are certainly not satisfied with the slow pace of progress in the negotiations this past week and a half. However we strongly believe that on the basis of our different visions, models and approaches to achieve sustainable development, and a reaffirmed commitment to honour the international agreements that we adopted in 1992, 1997 and 2015, and the respect of the balance, commitments and obligations agreed therein, we can continue moving our canoe in the right direction, towards the achievement of the objective and purpose of the Convention, its Kyoto Protocol and its Paris Agreement and a strong outcome of COP23.

The world and particularly the victims of climate change are watching us. We cannot deceive them.

Thank you.