



ZIMBABWE

REMARKS BY

THE MINISTER OF WATER AND CLIMATE

HONOURABLE OPPAH. C.Z. MUCHINGURI-KASHIRI (MP)

AT

COP 23

Bonn, Germany

- **Your Excellency, The President of COP23, H.E. Frank Bainimarama**
- **The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Ms Patricia Espinosa,**
- **Honourable Ministers,**
- **Distinguished Delegates,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Your Excellency,

Allow me to extend my congratulations to the Government of Fiji through you, H.E. Mr Frank Bainimarama for the excellent organisation of the Twenty-third United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 23). I would also like to extend my congratulations to His Excellency, Mr Salaheddine Mezouar for successfully hosting the Twenty-third United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 22) which initiated discussions on the implementation modalities for the Paris agreement.

The Zimbabwe Government views climate change as a serious issue and a matter that needs urgent attention. My country has ratified the Paris Agreement and now a Party to this crucial treaty. We view the Paris Agreement as a stepping stone towards tangible action in addressing the climate change challenge facing the world today. We need to move with speed to finalise the development of the rulebook for implementation of this Agreement.

Zimbabwe has been a party to the Kyoto Protocol since 2009 following the ratification of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992. The country has been meeting its obligations under the two legal instruments. After joining the rest of the world in spelling out our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the country has embarked on the development of the implementation framework for NDCs which we anticipate to present during the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue. The country has undertaken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the energy sector by 33% per capita by 2030, provided the technology and financial flows are positive.

A High Level Coordination Committee for implementation of NDCs that is chaired by the Office of President and Cabinet continues to provide guidance on development of policies, strategies and frameworks for implementation modalities. This High Level Coordination Committee will ensure successful implementation and monitoring of our contributions, taking cognisance of the seriousness and cross cutting nature of the Nationally Determined Contributions.

We would like to see the Paris Agreement upholding the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in light of national circumstances. We believe that climate action in developing countries should be backed by strong financial support from the developed

world which is responsible for the bulk of historical greenhouse gas emissions.

Access to climate finance remains a challenge to Zimbabwe and most of the developing world as the Green Climate Fund which is the main funding mechanism of the UNFCCC, remains slow in processing applications and the disbursement of resources. Our GCF Readiness Proposal was approved more than a year ago, but up to date, GCF has not released the funds. We need to see a change in the way these funds are handled and simplification of the GCF projects approval and funds disbursement processes.

Climate change is real as demonstrated by its impacts which have caused damage to infrastructure, deaths, loss of life, wildlife and livestock, reduced agricultural productivity, and resulted in rural communities especially women walking long distances in search of the depleted water resources.

The 2015/2016 rainfall season witnessed rains that were far from adequate for dryland crop agriculture and the country had to use more than 200 million USD to import maize. Energy generation at our biggest hydropower generation plant, Kariba Power Station sunk to its lowest in more than two decades. The 2016/2017 season brought with it rains that were way above normal together with cyclone Dineo which caused extensive flooding in parts of the country.

Water resources are central to the Zimbabwean economy and the region at large. The people's livelihoods and social wellbeing hinges around water, but availability and reliability of water is a function of the highly variable climatic conditions. This has affected the production and productivity of the agricultural sector and continues to threaten food security in the region.

Your Excellency,

As we prepare for the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue, we should ensure that the pre-2020 emissions gap and associated impacts of such a gap on developing countries are properly addressed. We should call upon developed countries to explore opportunities to close the gap and address the associated impacts, including through a facility to finance emission reductions in developing countries in the run-up and beyond 2020.

Zimbabwe intends to follow low carbon development despite our low capacity to manage climate related risks and limited capacity to meet new global obligations that require systematic tracking of emissions and subsequently reducing them.

Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,

Adaptation remains an essential and growing priority and there is an urgent need for immediate and adequate support for adaptation efforts. Zimbabwe views the climate adaptation challenge seriously and that the Paris Agreement under the negotiations can only be meaningful to Africa if commitments to support adaptation have legally binding provisions.

We want to see the commitments translated into real action to ensure the resilience of livelihoods as we endeavour to leave behind a cleaner and healthy environment for the future generations.

I thank you.