



**STATEMENT BY HON. AMARA M. KONNEH, MINISTER OF FINANCE  
AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING & HEAD OF LIBERIAN DELEGATION**

**At the twenty first session of the Conference of the Parties and the eleventh Session of the  
Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol**

**Paris, France**

**December 7, 2015**

**H.E. President of the Conference of Parties**

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Government and People of Liberia.

First, the Liberian Government wishes to register its appreciations and take this opportunity to thank the Government and the people of France for their warm hospitality and the incredible efforts they have made to ensure the success of COP21 despite the recent terror attack. Liberia joins you in solidarity during your period of national mourning.

**Mr. President, Liberia aligns itself with the statements of the African Group,  
LDCs and G77+China.**

**Mr. President,**

Liberia recognized the severity of the impacts of global warming and at this historic moment where all Parties will take a significant step forward in the fight against climate change. We must remain focused on what was agreed to in Durban.

Mr. President, it is an open secret that Climate change has been recognized as the most current issue affecting human development. Its impacts are causing loss of lives, food insecurity, destruction of infrastructures and ecosystem services. In a nutshell, climate change is a major challenge to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Like many Least Developed Countries, Liberia continues to experience severe consequences of climate change such as the perennial flooding in our urban and peri-urban communities, coastal erosion, pest infestation, increase incidence of health issues such as the Ebola epidemic. In short, climate change continues to impact Liberia's Socio-economic development.

In response to Liberia's vulnerability to climate change, we are presently executing three major adaptation projects, namely Coastal Defense, Climate Agriculture and Early Warning System Projects.

To further enhance Government's intervention, Liberia has completed and submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. Liberia's INDC provides the way forward for my government in addressing climate change in the areas of mitigation and adaptation. Liberia's INDC demonstrates the government's intent to address the impacts of climate change, but will require adequate and predictable finance for implementation.

**Mr. President,**

Liberia wants a new legally binding agreement out of Paris that will be endorsed by all parties. A new global agreement will assure the people of the world that we are serious in ensuring our sustainable development activities.

Adaptation is key for developing countries including mine. Therefore, Liberia calls for the implementation of the National Adaptation Process to address medium and long term adaptation activities.

**Mr. President,**

REDD+ plays a critical role in ensuring the mitigation of climate change. Any delay in the disbursement of finance to support REDD+ has the potential for countries to revert to full scale commercial logging activities in order to respond to their national development activities in a timely manner. Therefore, Liberia calls for sustainable, predictable finance for rainforest countries that are involved in the process. This will ensure that these countries meet up with timely development deliverables at the national levels.

On the issue of finance, Liberia extends her profound thanks and appreciation to those parties that have contributed to the replenishment of the Least Developed Countries Fund and urge other parties that are in the position to also make their contributions.

Technology as you know is a major hindrance in addressing the impacts of climate change. Therefore, there is a need to ensure the timely deployment and diffusion of technology for the LDCS and developing countries without bottle necks.

Capacity building has been identified as a major issue that needs to be considered in the new agreement. With this, Liberia calls for the establishment of a Capacity building Mechanism.

Liberia remains committed to decision 23/CP.18 and other COP decisions on gender.

We call for further action to speed up the implementation of Lima Work Programme on Gender. Adaptation and mitigation efforts under the new

agreement should be consistent with human rights taking into account gender equality, equal access to decision making and benefit sharing. Issues around capacity, technology development and transfer and finance should also include a gender- sensitive approach/gender – responsive climate approach

Finally, Mr. President, I want to take this time to thank you for the leadership you have demonstrated thus far. We look forward to a successful out come from Paris.

I thank you all.