

**Statement to the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties of the  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

**By**

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**Monsieur le Président,**

**Je suis honorée de m'adresser à cette prestigieuse assemblée et nous espérons que les retombées de cette conférence soient historiques car elle nous ramène à la question fondamentale de notre survie sur cette planète.**

**Monsieur le Président, permettez-moi de continuer en anglais.**

**Mr. President,**

**I would like to begin by conveying our sympathies to all French citizens and the Government of France on the tragic events of November 2015.**

**At the outset, the Republic of Mauritius wishes to associate itself with the statements of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), of the Africa Group, the Group of 77 and China. Mauritius stands in solidarity with the comity of all Small Island Developing States (SIDS).**

**Our meeting is taking place at a consequential time. Successive United Nations reports as well as the new World Bank report warns that absent climate-informed development, climate change could result, by 2030, in an additional 100 million**

**people being pushed deeper into poverty. Of these, up to 43 million would be Africans.**

**Yet Africa contributes least to the problem of greenhouse gas emissions.**

**Mr. President,**

**According to the 2014 World Risk Report, Mauritius is ranked 14th on the list of countries at high risk of suffering an extreme climatic event.**

**Temperature is increasing and surpassing the global average.**

**A reduction in annual precipitation rates has been observed while sea level is also rising at significantly higher level than the global average.**

**The climate change projections for Mauritius are bleak.**

**Mr. President,**

**In September 2015, the Republic of Mauritius submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC). My country has bold aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 30%**

**by 2030 and transition to a sustainable, low-carbon development pathway.**

**For the 2015 agreement, the Republic of Mauritius would like it to address the following:**

- 1) Respect and maintain the principles of equity, and common but differentiated responsibility;**
- 2) Intensify efforts to reduce emission of greenhouse gases by industrialized countries, in line with historical responsibility and scientific findings;**
- 3) Treat Adaptation, Loss and Damage issues as separate components of the Paris agreement; we recommend that the Loss and Damage component be anchored in a permanent international mechanism;**
- 4) Mobilize finance to fight climate change comprehensively.**
- 5) Boost access to technology and build capacity to expand adaptation and mitigation efforts in SIDS, LDCs and African countries.**

**Finally, we call on all our developed country partners to come together, demonstrate political will, and agree on a legally-binding agreement.**

**Mr. President,**

**I would like to conclude by drawing on one of the most influential documents of our time - the encyclical letter by Pope Francis, challenging the human family to halt the deterioration of the environment. Climate change is a global problem, it's solutions hinge on local actions. As Laudato Si' warns us, in tackling climate change, let us not succumb to a "globalization of indifference".**

**COP 21 offers an unprecedented opportunity to respond to Pope Francis' call, take heed of scientific findings about anthropogenic changes to climate, and act collectively to accelerate the overall effort to combat climate change.**

**2015 is set to enter the history books as the warmest year on record, and a looming El Niño event is likely to potentially disrupt food supplies and human health, we must act resolutely.**

**Time is not on our side.**

**It is my hope that prudent actions, will help us lay the foundations for a sustainable, climate-resilient future, as our survival on this planet depends on the protection of our environment.**

**I thank you for your kind attention.**