

Uganda

STATEMENT

BY

H.E. EDWARD K. SSEKANDI

VICE PRESIDENT AND HEAD OF UGANDA DELEGATION

AT

**THE LEADERS EVENT OF THE 21ST SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE / 11TH
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING
AS A MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL**

Paris, 30th November, 2015.

Your Excellency, Francois Hollande,
Excellences, Heads of State and Government,
Excellency, Mr. Laurent Fabius, President of COP 21 / CMP 11;
Distinguished Delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mr. President,

My Delegation joins other delegations in conveying our condolences and deep sympathy to you, your Government and the people of France, over the tragic loss of innocent lives following the recent terrorist attack in Paris. We applaud the Government of France for the decisive steps taken in response to those terrorist acts.

We appreciate the Government and people of France for hosting this important Conference and for the warm hospitality accorded to us. We also thank Peru for hosting the previous conference; which set a firm basis for this conference.

Mr. President,

This Conference is important and timely for addressing climate change – one of the challenges threatening the survival of humanity and mother earth. While Uganda has barely contributed to global greenhouse emissions, it is disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change as evidenced by frequent droughts, landslides, soil erosions, famine and diseases which has had a negative impact on livelihoods of our people.

Mr President

The threat posed by climate change has also been affirmed by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change who predicted that the impact of climate change will lead to more flooding, famine, drought and disease that will have a negative effect on millions of

people especially in the poorest parts of the world. The situation is worsened by the poor state of economic development in these regions and low adaptive capacity. The predictions have started to occur in some parts of the globe including my country, Uganda.

It is, therefore, important for this Conference to arrive at a consensus global outcome that can effectively address these challenges. This is the context in which Uganda supports adoption, by this Conference, of a legally-binding instrument on climate change and a decision on actions necessary to be taken between now and 2020.

Mr. President,

We call upon developed countries to demonstrate the necessary political will to ensure that issues critical to developing countries specifically mitigation; adaptation; loss and damage as well as means of implementation especially scaled-up financing, technology development and transfer; capacity building; transparency of action and support are addressed in the expected Instrument in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

Mr President,

In this regard, developed countries need to make firm commitments to augment resources for the Green Climate Fund; as well as to the Special Climate and Adaptation Funds established for purposes of addressing the special needs of the poorest and most vulnerable countries, including small island countries.

Mr. President,

Pursuant to the provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol on differentiation of parties, we urge developed countries to make firm commitment on deep reductions in Green House Gas emissions in order to achieve the 2⁰C temperature goal and to attain a global peaking of emissions as soon as possible. Developing countries should have longer time-frames for peaking of emissions to avoid further adverse effect on their development. On Intended Nationally Determined

Contributions, Uganda is happy to be among the countries that have submitted their INDCs; and call upon other countries that have not done so to act fast. It is our hope that the Instrument under consideration will provide for periodic update of contributions under an established international process.

Mr. President,

We support separating adaptation from loss and damage and the need to provide financial assistance for the latter. On land use, we support the need for the expected Instrument to include provisions for mobilising and enabling access to Reduce Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation financing; as well as those for early warning systems and contingency planning for extreme weather and its effects such as desertification, drought, floods, landslides, soil erosion and saline water intrusion.

Mr President.

In conclusion, a positive outcome of this Conference will offer a beacon of hope for the survival of millions, particularly in the poorest and vulnerable countries, who have contributed barely anything to climate change and yet continue to bear a disproportionate brunt of its effects. We must work together, in the spirit of genuine partnership, to decisively and effectively address those challenges for the sake of the survival of humanity and Planet Earth.

Mr. President

I thank you for your attention.