

**STATEMENT BY MS. GRACE AKUMU, ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN NGOS,
UNFCCC-COP12/MOP2, NAIROBI, 17 NOVEMBER 2006**

**President of COP12 and Minister for Environment and Natural
Resources of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Prof. Kivutha Kibwana,
Honourable Ministers,
UNFCCC Executive Secretary,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen:**

On behalf of African NGOs, may I take this opportunity to thank you for allowing us to make a statement on this historic Conference in Sub-sahara Africa. We also wish to express our satisfaction in the manner in which you and the UNFCCC secretariat have steered the Conference. Certainly, as African NGOs, we have learnt a lot during these two weeks. It has been a pleasure to meet and interact with numerous delegates from all parts of the world and share experiences, network and even form partnerships.

Mr. Chairman, having keenly followed the deliberations during the two weeks, time has now come that we have to take stock of what has transpired. Coming from a continent that is most threatened by the impacts of climate change, it is our honest observation that COP12 was not meant to achieve any meaningful and tangible decisions that would reassure Africa. Mr. Chairman, we have started witnessing extreme weather events that we were not used to before. If it is droughts and floods, we are experiencing them already and with the attendant consequences. The snow on Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro is melting so fast that in the next few years, we shall have no more. Rivers are drying up and livelihoods and survival of our communities completely threatened. Community conflicts over natural resources especially from within and without

our pastoralist communities are increasing. Soon, we shall be witnessing cross-border conflicts which may degenerate into hot wars.

As civil society, we wish to ask whether justice has been thrown out through the window. Despite suffering for actions not of our own, those responsible for causing the problems of climate change appear to always come to negotiations driven first and foremost by economic interests, then political hegemony and lastly environmental concerns. Yet time to act is now, for if we do not, we shall soon reach the threshold of 2 degrees Centigrade, a point of no return.

Mr. Chairman, African NGOs have noted with serious concern the following:

First: That no tangible and meaningful decision was arrived concerning equitable distribution of CDM projects. Although we are being told that we should keep in mind that CDM is market driven, we also wish to remind all that markets have not worked for Africa and they are not just about to. If they had worked, Africa, considering our endowment with all resources known to man, would not be in this pathetic state we are found in today. Yet we are continuously being reminded that this is the way to follow. We wish to state that markets are creations by human beings and experience has proven that they also fail. Therefore, should the avenue of free market be pursued, it will be a sure way to fail CDM in Africa.

Second: That the politics blocked the institutionalization and operationalisation of the Adaptation Fund. As civil society from the most vulnerable continent, we would have wished to see the conclusion of this important agenda item here at Nairobi. In this regard, we would have also wished that those multilateral institutions already housing and successfully managing multilateral environmental funds such as the Multilateral Fund for the Ozone be considered for housing the Adaptation Fund.

Third: That the major emitters of greenhouse gases blocked negotiations at Nairobi for a review under Art 9 of the Kyoto Protocol by trying to demand commitments from some developing countries. African civil society is of the opinion that these are mere diversionary strategies as Annex 1 countries have yet to meet their reduction targets of just 5 per cent. If Annex 1 countries do not take the lead in combating climate change, who will? Even the biggest emitter amongst them, the United States of America, has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol!

Fourth: Mr. Chairman, in view of the vulnerability of the African continent and her near negligible contribution of global greenhouse gas emissions, African civil society would wish to urge all delegates to consider a Special Adaptation Fund for Africa in order to compensate the continent on the damages it is suffering from the impacts of climate change.

Fifth: Post-Kyoto Regime: Mr. Chairman, We again note that the legal lifespan of Kyoto Protocol comes to an end in 2012. African civil society would not want to see another regime that is lopsided in favour of some regions of the world at the expense of others. With this, the buck lies at the doorstep of the African delegates. They should not allow themselves to be arm-twisted this time again. Why should Africa be the continent expected to defend unequal arrangements? African civil society would wish to call for an equitable Post-Kyoto regime that engenders equity in its broader sense based on per capita emissions allocations in order to provide incentives for implementation. In this regard, African civil society also wish to call upon the G77 delegates to ensure that the regime agreed upon in future is not discriminatory and oppressive to the peoples and citizens of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Sixth: Prioritisation of climate change: Mr. Chairman, we urge all delegates to commit themselves to accord climate change issues a higher priority status at national and international levels. And in Africa, we wish to call upon our governments to accord climate change the same level of priority as HIV/AIDS.

I thank you very much for your attention and to all delegates we say *Asante Sana and Bon Voyage!*