



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE**

STATEMENT DELIVERED BY

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DELEGATION

AT THE

HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP 18) TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

AND THE

EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES  
SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO  
PROTOCOL (CMP 8)

AT THE

QATAR NATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE, DOHA IN QATAR

**DECEMBER, 2012**

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**Mr. President, UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Ministers of Government and Heads of Delegation, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I have the honour of addressing you on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Whilst assuring you of the fullest support of my delegation throughout your term and expressing our optimism of a successful outcome of this DOHA Conference, I must first of all congratulate you on your appointment as President of COP18. Our deepest gratitude and appreciation is extended to the Government and people of Qatar for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to all delegates since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha. We commend the Government of Qatar and the UNFCCC Secretariat for their excellent organization of this meeting. Finally our profound thanks to the countries and organizations whom, through their generous financial support have made the convening of this meeting a success.

**Mr. President**, in as much as it is universally known and accepted that Sierra Leone's collective emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere is almost negligible, it is still a sad fact that as a poor developing nation we are now experiencing the adverse effects of climate change in the form of mudslides, unprecedented flash floods and changing rainfall patterns, leading to both human casualties and infra-structural destruction with a more ominous impact on our farming communities in the form of a marked reduction of crop yields and the attendant lack of food security.

For the first time in Sierra Leone we now observe visible signs of coastal erosion and physical alteration of our coastline as a direct consequence of rising sea levels leading to the disappearance of our coastal villages, artisanal fishing industry and general infrastructure.

I can confirm that the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone considers the issue of climate change such a priority that he has personally retained the portfolio of Minister of the Environment and ensured that we submitted our First and Second National Communications in 2006 and 2012 respectively; the National Adaptation Program for Action in 2008 and NAMA which is a requirement of the Copenhagen Conference. I am also happy to confirm that preparation of our third national communications is well under way.

Further evidence of the priority accorded to the issue of environmental protection and climate change by the Government of Sierra Leone is the establishment of a National Secretariat for climate change within the Office of the President, charged with the duty of inter-alia: ensuring the effective implementation of UNFCCC decisions and the Kyoto protocol, ensuring the provision of institutional

framework and guidelines for the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and mitigation into a national development plan that is climate resilient with provisions for low emissions, all in conformity with the National Agenda for Change and Prosperity promoted by Sierra Leone's President.

**Mr. President**, notwithstanding the limited and sometimes inadequate financial support provided by our development partners, Sierra Leone is determined to pursue the implementation of adaptation and mitigation programs and projects such as:

- Installation of 10,000 solar powered street lamps in major cities and towns.
- A 25 to 33 mega-watts bio-energy plant using sugar residues will be completed in the next few years.
- The International Fund for Agriculture Development Project for Agro-meteorological production to enhance higher yield of basic crops and capacity building of the national Meteorological Department.
- World Bank Global Environment Facility funding project for improved sustainable management of six conservation sites including the Outamba-Kilimi National Park, the Loma and Kangari Hills and Non-Hunting Reserves.
- The Food Security Early Warning System Project that Sierra Leone is implementing within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region.
- The Water Resources Assessment and Management Project presently undertaken by the Water Resources Department.
- The Forest Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Project which spans six West African Countries including Ghana, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo and;
- The European Union sponsored Environmental Governance and Mainstreaming Project on the development of coherent policies, regulations and standards on environment and climate change, and capacity building for their implementation.

In a bid to avert a potential food crisis looming in Sierra Leone due to the effect of climate change, the SL government is already vigorously implementing adaptation and mitigation strategies particularly in the agriculture sector and we expect to commence the implementation of a REDD+ capacity building project in early 2013. In October of this year, our Parliament passed a bill creating both a National Protected Area Authority and a Conservation Trust Fund under the supervision of the ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security.

**Mr. President,** as Party to the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, Sierra Leone remains committed to a successful outcome of the climate change talks in Doha. We hereby reaffirm our association with the Least Developed Countries, the African Group, G77 and China, and we support their positions, particularly Africa's position on the climate change negotiations in Doha. The outgoing COP17 President also emphasised that Doha must stay true to the Durban legacy. The Doha COP must therefore be seen to earn its place in history as the COP that is able to ensure the implementation of the decisions of Durban and successful conclusion of much of the ongoing work started in Bali in 2007. It is only because of the promise of a second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol that the developing country parties including Sierra Leone agreed to enter negotiations under the Durban Platform on a new legal agreement to be applicable to all.

To ensure the successful completion of the two pillars of the Bali Roadmap in Doha, to wit; the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP, we fully support the adoption of an internationally legally binding five year second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol with provisional application, addressing all outstanding issues to start from 1st January, 2013, in order to avoid any legal gap after the first commitment period. We also look forward to a successful completion of the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group for Long-term Cooperative Action, hoping it will reach an agreed outcome in compliance with the spirit of the Bali Action Plan and ensuring equal implementation of the financing commitments by developed countries for adaptation and mitigation. These must be the key deliverables of these climate talks in Doha.

**Mr. President,** the science is clear, if emissions are not lowered immediately the opportunity to avert the consequences of climate change will be irrevocably lost. My delegation would like to see a second commitment period with the highest possible goals and therefore call on Developed Country Parties to meet their obligations through new ambitious mitigation commitments for a second term and to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2020 as this will be considered a major contribution to, and an equitable way of achieving, the objectives of the Convention as a meaningful legal agreement under the Durban Platform. This is an attempt to avoid and/or reduce potential loss and damage resulting from adverse impacts of climate change by scaling-up adaptation actions.

The flexibility mechanisms must be limited to those Parties taking on internationally, legally binding mitigation commitments and strict limits on the carryover surplus Assigned Amount Units. We urged Annex 1 Parties who intend to join the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol but have not submitted their commitments to do so quickly. We also urge those Annex 1 Parties that do not

intend to join the second commitment period to make comparable commitments to reduce their emissions . In this regard, we call on Parties who have opted out to reconsider their positions and join the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol with high reduction targets and without conditions. We also call for the European Union and others to agree on the provisional application in order to preserve the Kyoto Protocol.

**Mr. President,** we must achieve a global goal of limiting temperature increase to well below 1.5°C and collectively agree that global emissions peak no later than 2015 to help protect our ecosystems, food production and sustainable development in the Least Developed Countries. In this regard, my delegation re-emphasises that the peak year must be agreed under the LCA before its termination and that Parties should not postpone this discussion under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP).

**Mr. President,** here in Doha, we must take necessary decisions for the adequate and full actualization of the means of implementation of the Convention and its Protocol. In particular, decisions must ensure the full operationalisation of the Adaptation Committee, Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Standing Committee on Finance, Technology Executive Committee(TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network(CTCN) to enable non-Annex 1 Parties to address mitigation and adaptation. We must also establish and enhance the linkage and synergy between the Adaptation Committee, TEC and CTCN, GCF and the Standing Committee. To this end, we support the proposal that the Climate Technology Center and its Network be housed in United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP), Nairobi and call for further strengthening and upgrading of UNEP.

**Mr. President,** the International Monetary Fund(IMF) has forecasted that Sierra Leone potentially; will record a 34% GDP growth by 2012 and a much higher economic growth over the next decade ,however opportunity to lift our people from poverty, is in a precarious balance if emission rates are not reduced. The adverse effects of climate change are a major threat to Sierra Leone's economy. Reduction of emissions is critical to our survival, Adaptation must assume a prominent place on the climate agenda if we are to overcome poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To this end, Sierra Leone joins the LDCs and African countries to call for concrete commitments in Doha towards fulfilling the promised US\$100 billion per year by 2020 as committed by developed country Parties and underscore the need for a clear climate finance roadmap to scale up financial resources in order to avoid the funding gap from 2013 to 2020. As it now

stands, the Green Climate Fund is an empty shell and the fast-start financing period will expire at the end of this year.

We also need to agree on a common framework to measure, report and verify delivery of financial support in order to ensure transparency and comparability through the Standing Committee. It is also important for Parties to take stock of the lessons learnt from the Fast Start Finance Process between 2010 and 2012 to ensure the effectiveness of the next financing regime under the Convention.

My delegation welcomes the proposal to strengthen gender-related considerations and greater participation of women in all climate change issues especially women in developing countries.

**Mr. President**, my delegation calls on all Parties to respect the high level political consensus reached by leaders in the Rio+20 Summit that reaffirmed that Parties to the Convention and its Protocol should protect and strengthen the multilateral climate regime and enhance collective ability to address climate change under the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Parties must be seen in this Doha COP to take a set of highly ambitious and comprehensive decisions which will result in a balance package built around mutual reassurances by Parties.

**Mr. President**, under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action(ADP), we must take a decision to map out plans to negotiate a new protocol applicable to all Parties with clear timelines and deadlines from 2013 to 2015 and identify clear milestones for the functionality of the ADP. This would enable the Protocol to come into effect and be implemented from 2020, leading to a COP for decision in Doha.

**Mr. President**, it is sincerely hoped that those nations now enjoying a high standard of industrialization, achieved at the time, with little focus on the environmental and climate impact on the world, would now take very seriously the looming disaster that threatens the world at large and more particularly poor developing countries like SL so as to feel morally bound to make meaningful financial contributions to meet this challenge but more significantly, that they adopt the sincerity of purpose to genuinely and meaningfully adopt and implement all decisions arrived at in this conference so as to ensure a safer and more equitable world for future generations, to whom we owe an absolute and unquestionable duty of care.

I thank you Mr. President and all delegates for your attention.

