



Statement delivered by

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Kingdom of Lesotho

At the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties
(COP 18) and the Eighth Session of the Conference of the Parties
Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

(CMP 8)

Mr. President,

On behalf of my delegation and on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho, I congratulate you on your election to chair our conference.

I am sure that under your able leadership and guidance this important Conference will meet the expectations of millions of people around the globe.

Through you, Mr. President, let me express our deep appreciation and thanks to the Government and people of Qatar for their warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made for our meetings.

Mr. President,

Climate change is a reality. Many of our developing and developed countries are feeling the severe impact every passing year through floods, severe hurricanes and droughts with heavy losses of lives and property. Therefore, the hopes and eyes of millions of people around the world are on us at COP18 and CMP8. They are pinning their hopes on this conference to come up with:

- effective adaptation and mitigation modalities at national levels
- effective technologies and capacity building at national levels where the poor face the daily struggle for a better life; and
- adequate financial resources and institutional arrangements to enable developing countries to reduce their economic vulnerabilities and embark on the path of sustainable economic and social development.

Mr. President,

My delegation and indeed all of Africa expect this conference, driven by our Shared Vision, to define a clear timeline to conclude a rule-based multilateral climate change agreement that will cover at least four major points:

First, an agreement on the second commitment of Kyoto Protocol and its immediate implementation starting on January 1st 2013 in order to lay groundwork for limiting temperature rise to below 2 centigrade degrees by 2050;

Second, commencement of the Durban Platform to reach and ratify a new agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol by 2015;

Third, putting into operation mechanisms **to finance adaptation** to climate change by least developed and other vulnerable developing countries; **to transfer technologies** that are affordable and environmentally sound to developing countries; and, **to promote cooperation** in research and development of new and innovative technologies;

Fourth, immediate funding and launch of the Green Climate Fund and related actions.

These are the reasonable minimum expectations that my delegation look for from Doha.

Mr. President,

The impact of climate change is real. In Lesotho, for example, we have had more frequent and more severe droughts and floods in the last ten years than we have had since 1978. As a result our food security has deteriorated to such levels that the Right Honourable Prime Minister Thomas Thabane, has had to declare a state of food emergency and appealed for international assistance. Clearly, if the green climate fund was in place it would help us finance our agricultural and forestry adaptation and mitigation programs.

Not only has climate change affected our agriculture, it has also affected the water in our rivers making small hydro schemes and animal watering impossible.

As many of you know, Lesotho is the water source for the Southern Africa region. Its headwaters flow through South Africa to the Indian Ocean in the East and Atlantic Ocean in the west touching Botswana and flowing through Namibia. Protection of these sources is critical to for the livelihoods of millions in Southern Africa as well as the ground water resources of the region.

On a more optimistic note, Lesotho has adopted a green economy development strategy, and is poised to be the first country to meet all electricity needs from renewable energy. Currently 75% of our electricity needs is derived from hydro power. We presently have three exciting projects at an advanced stage of preparation and feasibility studies. These are a 1000 MW pump storage hydro electricity generation; a 35 MW wind farm; and a 70 MW solar power project.

With the SADC power pool and power purchase agreements Lesotho can develop these renewal energy projects and contribute to the reduction of the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Mr. President,

Let us not disappoint the millions of our peoples who are looking to us to take bold decisions to save our planet and leave a legacy of green global economy to future generations.

Thank you