

A Statement made by HE Mr. Tesfai Ghebreselassie Sebhatu
Minister of Land, Water and Environment - the State of Eritrea

COP 18/CMP 8, 5 December 2012, Doha

Honourable Mr. President of COP 18/CMP 8

Excellencies Heads of Delegation,

Dear Ministers,

Representatives of Regional and Sub-regional Organizations,

Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset I would like, on behalf of the Eritrean delegation and on behalf of myself, to express deepest appreciation to the Government and the People of the State of Qatar for the generous hospitality accorded to me and my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful and vibrant city of Doha and for hosting COP18/CMP8 as well as availing these wonderful facilities at our disposal. I also congratulate H E Sheik Dr Mohammed bin Saleh Al Sada upon his election to assume the Presidency of COP 18/CMP 8. Special acclamation goes also to the UNFCCC Secretariat for the splendid job they have done in putting up all the arrangements together.

Mr President, in my country Eritrea, as is in all LDCs, the harsh climate change impacts has been heavily felt since long. In fact by now it has become clear beyond doubt, that there is hardly any country where climate change will not take its toll. Due to its fragile environment and low adaptive capacity, my country Eritrea stands to be among the most vulnerable to adverse effects of climate change and among those countries who strongly call for accelerated and due collective global action towards emission reduction of GHG and stabilization of its atmospheric concentration at a level scientifically justified that it will not interfere with the global climate system.

Eritrea's contribution to global GHG emission is literally negligible. Yet within our capability, we have been engaged in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures which support our national overriding objectives of sustainable social, economic and environmental development. Recently we submitted a plan on our national appropriate mitigation measures for NAMA registry requesting support for implementation. In our case adaptation is equally critical as mitigation.

Mr. President, since its accession to the Convention (UNFCCC) in 1995, Eritrea has been very eager to see all members of the international community of independent states earnestly commit themselves to work to reach a binding agreement on the basis of the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility and their respective capabilities, in order to achieve the ultimate

objectives of the Convention. Nonetheless, without losing sight of the undeniable achievements made in the long negotiation process and the commendable ambitious initiative of some developed countries and EU in particular, it has been sad to note many broken promises and unfulfilled dreams. Some countries, who ought to take leadership to dispose the negotiation process in the right direction and to a fast happy conclusion by assuming their due responsibility, have been blocking the negotiation process by putting conditionalities hard to come to terms with.

As time is not in favour of our common effort, Being insensitive to the scary threats of climate change and indifference to the plight of those who already have been suffering most from it has to stop and stop immediately for the sake of wellbeing of present and future human generations. Delay and inaction witnessed to date to reaching a commonly accepted and binding agreement has been too long. Further delay should not be acceptable by all parties in view of the magnitude of the problems that humanity is facing due to the ever aggravating climate change and the urgency of the required combined response to mitigate climate change and its impacts.

In this regard my delegation strongly supports the positions declared on behalf of the African group, LDCs, AOISIS and all likeminded States. We also call for the High Level Segment of the Doha COP 18/CMP 8 to be historical in settling the major outstanding issues on climate negotiations, including to:

- Adopt a 5-year 2nd Commitment Period of KP and call for Annex 1 Parties to move on to the top of their pledges without conditionalities;
- Ensure the eligibility criteria in place for the 1st commitment period apply in the CP2 and Annex 1 Parties commit to adopt the CP2 Amendments;
- Finalise the foreseen agreed outcome of the Bali Action Plan and successful completion of the AWG-LCA;
- Map out the plans to negotiate a new protocol applicable to all Parties and complete the work of the ADP by 2015 and the Protocol to come into effect and be implemented from 2020;
- Deciding to expedite the operationalization of the Cancun Agreements: including the Adaptation Framework, the Green Climate Fund, Technology Mechanism and Capacity Building Forum; and
- Increasing short and medium term ambition for financial support for developing countries

I thank you for your kind the attention.