

**STATEMENT BY THE RT HON PRIME MINISTER
DR B.S.S DLAMINI
AT THE 18TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP 18) TO
THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWROK CONVENTION
ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)
AT DOHA, QATAR
5th DECMBER 2012**

Mr. President
Excellencies, Heads of State and Government
Honourable Ministers
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour and pleasure for me, on behalf of His Majesty, King Mswati III of the Kingdom of Swaziland to address this august gathering of the Conference of the Parties. I bring warm and cordial greetings from our King, Her Majesty the Indlovukazi and the entire Swazi Nation – a nation that is looking forward to a positive outcome of this year's UN Climate Change Conference.

Mr President, it is now my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group of Negotiators; a group of countries that are vulnerable and experiencing negative impacts of climate change which are rendering efforts made towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development ineffective.

It is my pleasure, Mr President, to congratulate you on your election as COP President and express our confidence that through your leadership we will have a

successful session that will bring us closer to achieving the ultimate goal of the convention.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the Emir, Government and the people of the State of Qatar for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to us since our arrival.

Mr President, the countries of the world continue to share a deep concern for what appears as a relentless rate of climate change. These events are now frequently observed. It is most encouraging to note that our presence here signifies a commitment to finding solutions to such impacts which are hard felt by the rest of the world.

The African Group continues to advocate for an ambitious legal second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. We call for a second commitment period to come into effect on 1 January 2013 through provisional application pending entry into force.

We look forward to the termination of the LCA after successful conclusion of its work. Further, there should be a clear comparability framework for Annex I parties that are not covered by the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Africa calls for provision of concrete financial support for adaptation actions and technology, with no midterm gap during the implementation of the Bali Road map.

The pre-2020 work-plan on raising the level of ambition should build on the Bali Road Map. The future legal outcome should be based on the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. The outcome should cover mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology and capacity-building.

Mr. President, let me assure you and our partners that African countries are committed towards achieving the objectives of the Convention even though they lack resources to do so.

In conclusion; Mr. President, in this UN Conference on Climate Change here in your beautiful city of Doha, I would like urge all Parties to make the world proud by adopting decisions that will assure us and our future generation of a habitable planet.

I thank you Mr President and wish you all successful deliberations.