



**The Republic of Uganda**

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 18TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF  
THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND 8<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
PARTIES, SERVING AS A MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO  
PROTOCOL,**

**26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER TO 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2012; DOHA, QATAR.**

**STATEMENT BY**

**PROF. EPHRAIM KAMUNTU (MP)**

**MINISTER OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT AND HEAD OF THE UGANDA  
DELEGATION COP18/CMP8**

**5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2012**

**The President of COP18/CMP8, Dr. Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah,  
Excellencies, Heads of Delegations  
Honourable Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Mr. President,**

Uganda joins other delegations in congratulating your Excellency upon your election and assumption of the high office of the Presidency of the 18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP18) and the Conference of the Parties serving as a meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP8). My delegation appreciates the warm welcome and excellent arrangements for our work by the government and people of Qatar during this Conference. The facilities and the audience put at our disposal are world-class and have inspired our work.

Uganda associates itself with the statements made by the representatives of Swaziland, The Gambia and Algeria on behalf of the African Group, the Least Developed Countries and the Group of 77 plus China respectively.

Uganda commends Parties for the adoption of the new Doha Work Programme on Article 6 of the Convention, which should go a long way to prepare and stimulate participation of the world citizens to play their part in combating climate change.

Uganda welcomes the political round table discussions, which have opened space for transparent and innovative views on sticky issues. There is no doubt this approach will facilitate convergence and consensus building on a number of outstanding issues.

**Mr. President,**

Uganda commends the Conference of the Parties (COP) for its decision on UNEP with its headquarters in Nairobi, hosting the Climate Technology Centre (CTC). This is more appropriate and equitable given the location of the Green Climate Change Fund in South Korea.



**Mr President,**

Uganda like many developing countries has made big strides in an effort to implement the objectives of the Convention despite economic challenges.

These measures include integration of climate change issues in the national development plan, strengthening national capacity for coordination and implementation of climate change; climate proofing development planning; promoting a low carbon development pathway and the continued effective participation in the international climate change processes. Furthermore mainstreaming guidelines and a national policy on climate change with its implementation strategy shall be completed before end of this year, 2012.

In 2009 Government established a Climate Change Unit and an institutional framework for the Clean Development Mechanism. A Climate Change Policy Committee and an Inter-institutional climate change technical committee were also established. The Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change and the participation of His Excellency the President of Uganda, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, in the Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change demonstrate political involvement and commitment at the highest level. Here we re-affirm our commitment towards the conventions and multilateral agreements that we have ratified.

Besides being among the best performers in hosting registered Carbon Projects in Africa, we are participating in the REDD+ activities and also ready to submit our Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) to the UNFCCC early 2013. Efforts to mainstream climate change at sector and local government levels is finalized, while integration of climate change in the education curriculum is in advanced stages. A special vote for climate change within the Environment and Natural resources sector budget has been created to support more focused national coordination of climate change response.

**Mr. President,**

All these national initiatives are a demonstration of the political will of government and determination of the people of Uganda towards addressing the climate change challenge.

However, Uganda's contribution to address climate change is greatly constrained by the low level of development associated with weak institutional capacity, and lack of efficient and appropriate technologies. The support of developed countries is therefore

crucial in complementing national efforts especially for the developing countries like Uganda.

**Mr. President;**

It is of great concern that the negotiations here in Doha have been very slow and the expected results are yet to be achieved. Delegations seem resigned and are now focussing on the next COP19 in Poland. As we engage in these prolonged negotiations, climate change induced impacts are inflicting misery to populations in all continents. Recent examples can be cited in the USA, the Philippines as well as in my own country, where landslides have buried people after excessive rains.

**Mr. President;**

In this regard Uganda urges this Conference to:

1. Finalize the legal requirements for the immediate commencement of a 5 year Second Commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
2. Ensure a balanced finalization of the full mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long Term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) before its termination.
3. Urge developed country parties to fulfill their pledged commitment to long term financing through the Green Climate Fund under the UNFCCC.
4. Further urge, developed countries to scale up their mitigation ambition in line with science; increase Technology transfer to LDC especially in light of the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events.
5. Ensure that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) process is balanced and fully anchored in the principles and provisions of the Convention.
6. Recognize the outcome of the Technical Workshop on Water and Climate Change impacts and adaptation strategies.
7. Recognize that climate change impacts on Agriculture have undermined the economies and livelihoods in developing countries and hence ensure a decision on agriculture and climate change is taken at this COP.
8. Strengthen the work of the Durban Forum to ensure enhanced implementation of the prioritized capacity building activities.



**Mr. President,**

My delegation wishes to conclude by noting that this is the fourth year in a row of intense negotiations on climate change, yet the new treaty being formulated by 2015 is not going to take an ounce of carbon or any other greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere until the year 2020. Yet according to climate science, this scenario invariably puts us on track for a global climate showdown with devastating consequences for all of us but more particularly in the developing world if global greenhouse gas emissions do not begin to decline by that year.

We must therefore move with a renewed sense of urgency to agree on the new international policy instrument that meets the objectives of the Bali Roadmap in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Framework Convention. Climate change is not hibernating but rather increasing and we must act and act now decisively for the survival of the human race.

**I thank you.**