

**Statement of St. Kitts and Nevis
To the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of 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)
Of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Doha, Qatar
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Delivered by
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Thank you Mr. Chair

I would like to express my delegation's gratitude to the Government and people of the State of Qatar for their wonderful hospitality as they host us during this COP 18.

At the outset, St. Kitts and Nevis associates itself with the Statements made by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77, and Nauru, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

St. Kitts and Nevis is one of the Small Island Developing States severely affected by the challenges of Climate Change. In our attempts to address these challenges, we continue to meet our obligations under the UNFCCC by working to complete our second National Communications and we are also about to embark on the development of a comprehensive Climate Change policy that we hope to have adopted in 2013. However, we require international action as well. For us, a successful outcome of these negotiations is critical for our very existence.

There has been much debate on how best to address climate change over the last two decades with limited progress. We cannot afford another twenty years without substantive results from our efforts. My delegation urges Member States therefore to make concrete decisions that will ensure the future sustainability of our one and only planet. Difficult decisions Mr. President, but the right ones.

Mr. President, Climate Change affects us all, and we all have to contribute to the solution. We must not be exclusive in our partnerships. We need to ensure that all stakeholders can contribute to the solution. One stakeholder that continues to be excluded is the Republic of China on Taiwan.

Taiwan continues to improve its carbon reduction regulations to meet international standards and is ready and willing to submit its Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions to the UNFCCC registry. Taiwan has been making strides in reducing its carbon dioxide emissions and has been a leader in creating a green environment. These are all responsible activities that many Parties here can emulate. Taiwan thus deserves the opportunity to have a say in the Climate Change discourse and be an observer to the Green Climate Fund as well as a non-party actor in the Durban Platform. Taiwan is very well qualified to participate.

In a few weeks' time, Mr. President, the First Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol will have run its course. It will be remembered as an ambitious plan which caused extreme division due to unwillingness by some to adhere to its guidelines.

It will be perceived as well unfortunately by many as not having lived up to its potential. But it is not the Kyoto Protocol that failed. We failed. We failed our people; we failed our future. We failed to put aside our differences and to cooperate effectively. Instead some of us chose to continue our quest for economic advancement only, with no regard for our climate, and no regard for our fellow man.

St. Kitts and Nevis has been significantly impacted from adverse weather events that have caused erosion which has severely damaged our coastal infrastructure, beaches and even led to hotel closure due to damage. Parts of our coastal communities have been relocated further inland because of storm surge. Sea defenses have had to be constructed to protect a significant portion of the coastline.

As a country at the frontlines of Climate Change, St. Kitts and Nevis has one small appeal to this Conference going forward: Let us succeed. Count us all in the quest for a safe and secure future. The advances made in the right direction over the past two to three years gives us hope that much more could be accomplished if all of us do our part.

So what do we require? What do we want to see accomplished by our cooperation?

St. Kitts and Nevis calls for the Second Commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to come into effect on January 1, 2013, and we call for this Commitment period to be for a period of five years. This will allow for all to adjust to any unforeseen developments over the years.

My delegation calls as well for a shared vision. It is pointless attempting to address Climate Change and move forward in many different directions. That would be the equivalent of marking time and we can no longer afford to do this. There has to be consensus on our resolution.

Mr. President, with evolving situations we also have to adjust to the new realities or we will become irrelevant. For this reason it is imperative that a new Protocol under the Convention be adopted no later than 2015. This new Protocol has to strengthen the multilateral rules-based process and provide for a legally binding regime. We have to accept that this is the only way. We know that it is. There is also a requirement for the establishment of an international mechanism to address loss and damage, guided by the principles of the Convention. Let us make it happen.

St. Kitts and Nevis cannot move away from the belief that global average temperature increase must be limited to below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. We have shown the rationale for this call before and we believe if we are to save ourselves from the ravages of Climate Change this needs to be our core mandate. We accept that this is an ambitious target that has become more challenging, as sea level rising and global warming are now exceeding the scientific predictions, but our very survival hinges on our ambitious action.

Mr. President, as we move forward let us stay true to the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility. Let us ensure that all countries and particularly those countries that face extinction as a result of Climate Change, like Small Island Developing States, have a fighting chance. Let us ensure that our future generations can thank us for stepping up to the plate; putting aside our differences; and resolving the challenge of Climate Change. This is our moment to prove our detractors wrong and commit ourselves to working together to prevent a universal catastrophe.

I thank you