

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



STATEMENT

BY

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Doha, STATE OF QATAR

Mr. President
Your Excellencies
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honor to present this statement on behalf of Namibian delegation.

Mr. President

Namibia extends its warm appreciation to the Government and People of the State of Qatar for the warm hospitality we are enjoying in this beautiful City of Doha.

Mr. President

Namibia supports the statements made by the Kingdom of Swaziland and Algeria, on behalf of African Group and G77/China, respectively.

Mr. President

We must maintain and enhance the multilateral approach to climate change as we have been doing for the past 20 years and we must do this in good faith in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. The time to fight climate change and achieve the objectives of the Convention is running out. We urge and remind the industrialized countries to adopt progressive measures and leadership to lead the fight for climate change. We call for greater mitigation ambition to green house gas reduction, legal form of the commitment, successful closure of LCA and immediate capitalization of the GCF. Climate finance needs to be scaled up to reach 2020 target and needs to be in good balance for both mitigation and adaptation.

Mr. President

Allow me point out here that Namibia was one among the few countries that presented Green Plans at Rio Earth Summit on Sustainable Development in 1992. We are ranked 26th in the world in terms of environmental sustainability index.

Namibia has a National Policy on Climate Change with an implementation strategy and action plan. In addition, Namibia has renewable energy strategy outlined in our national energy policy. Furthermore, Namibia has a National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) which has been in place since 2001 which advises government on the policies and strategies it needs to adopt for preparing the country for the effects of climate change as well as the modalities for building a low-carbon development path. Under the UNFCCC's commitments and reporting obligations, Namibia submitted its first and second National Communication reports and it is currently preparing its Third National Communication.

Namibia efforts to combat climate change focus on community-based adaptation activities. To this end, our efforts has been progressive. Thanks to the support from the Japanese government through the African Adaptation project and the GEF Small Grant programme. We would like to see deliberate efforts for financial support to community-based initiatives. Thus, helping community to boost their resilience, improving their livelihoods, and reducing poverty.

Mr. President

About 20 years ago, we all agreed in Rio de Janeiro that our planet is under threat by none other than ourselves. Clearly, there is a consensus among scientists, policy makers and development practitioners that climate change poses complex challenges to developing countries particularly those in the African continent.

Recent scientific information provided by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report confirms that the world is on course for levels of warming that will be catastrophic for Africa. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Emission Gap Report confirms that the current mitigation pledges – unless strengthened – will set the world on course for global warming of between 2.5 to 5°C. This is disastrous for Africa.

Therefore, we need to respond adequately to this global catastrophe before it is too late. Developing countries need to be assisted to develop and implement national and regional strategies in order to increase resilience to the physical impacts of climate change while simultaneously addressing poverty alleviation, economic growth and the enhancement of human wellbeing.

Distinguished delegates

The multilateralism approach to climate change is the only healthier and sustainable approach we should endeavor in fighting climate change. In this regard, the Kyoto Protocol is the most important rule-based mechanism that we should cherish and nourish. There is a greater need to accelerate efforts to speed up the provision of finance to cover costs of adaptation, transfer of technology to help developing countries to build climate resilient economies including the support for the National Appropriate Mitigation Actions.

Mr. President

Our economies continue to bear the losses and damages associated with the impacts of climate change. Recent analysis on loss and damage reveals that Namibia loses about 1% of its GDP annually due to extreme

climatic events. It is further estimated that the damage will increase with time if efforts to halt global warming fall short of what science demands.

Developing countries are indeed already incurring costs associated with mitigation efforts to halt climate change and are ready to even do more provided that sufficient financial and technical support are provided in accordance with the principle of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

After almost 20 years of climate change negotiations, this process has been going in circles after circles without notable progress. We can no longer afford to repeat the same words and sentences time and again. For how long can we keep on repeating ourselves? In Cancun we agreed to hold the increase of the global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius but the actions so far point to the contrary, why? The scientific revelations to climate change are louder and clear than ever before, but it seems these findings are falling on deaf ears! Why? There is need to fast-track this process in a concise and comprehensive manner without further delay.

Mr. President

Namibia welcomes the operationalisation of the Green Climate Fund and is happy to note that the GCF has found its home, the host City, Songdo in South Korea. Namibia would like to congratulate the Republic of South Korea and the city of Songdo for being selected as the host for the Green Climate Fund Secretariat. The GCF gives hope to developing countries, as it is meant to assist them to build climate resilient economies and helps to pave the way for the low carbon development paths.

However, we are concerned that the GCF remains an empty shell. Namibia urges developed country Parties and other Parties to speedily capitalize the Fund for it to commence its operations expeditiously. There is need for mid-term targets toward the ultimate objective of US\$ 100 billion by 2020 including the MRV support. We are equally concerned about the reluctance of developed countries to eliminate barriers on technology transfer and capacity building measures to developing countries.

They say “Nature cares when she is protected.” Let us not wait until the darkness has come, as we may not be able to see! The future generations will not forgive us if we pass to them a spoiled planet. The time to act is right now, right here in Doha, Qatar!

I thank you!