

Country Statement

By

The Government of Timor-Leste

Delivered to the High Level Segment

COP 16 and MOP6 in Cancun, Mexico

8-10 December 2010

Madam President,

Honorable Heads of State and Government

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor to be here representing the Government of Timor-Leste at this 16th Conference of Parties to UNFCCC and 6th Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Government and people of Mexico for the hospitality in hosting this important International Conference.

Madam President, allow me also to take this opportunity to commend in my name and that of my delegation, the Executive Secretary of UNFCCC for her leadership in convening this high level event.

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change has been seen as one of the most serious challenges of the world today. It is not only an issue of environmental sustainability, however; this catastrophe is a matter of life and death for all of us. In fact, our socio-economic development and sustainability of the ecosystem have been seriously challenged and are becoming gradually more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Most of developing countries, especially LDCs and SIDS are becoming more vulnerable to the

impacts of climate change, since having a limited capacity, such as financial, technological and human resources, to adapt to this catastrophe.

According to IPCC (2007) that global temperature has been rapidly increasing, causing the melting of ice in the poles faster than ever before, and sea level rise at the rate of 3 millimeters per year. Consequently, many small island states are under threat of being lost due to the rise sea level.

In the case of LDCs, including Timor-Leste, the impacts of climate change such as floods, droughts, landslides and other extreme weather events, are the main obstacles in our efforts to reduce poverty, food insecurity, famine and malnutrition. These impacts have also caused destruction of infrastructure, biodiversity losses, as well as environmental refugees, and most LDCs have limited resources to address them.

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The time for action has arrived and important decisions have to be taken now. Any delays mean more suffering to our people. My country, alongside with other LDCs, are being victims of climate change impacts that are being caused by industrialized developed countries. In view of this, these countries should bear the moral responsibility to undertake urgent, ambitious and decisive actions to reduce their emissions, and to provide financial, technological and capacity building assistance to the most vulnerable countries, especially LDCs and SIDS, in order to enable them to adapt to climate change impacts.

My delegation wishes to express its frustration for the delays in the implementation of the legally binding agreement as mandated by COP 13 and the failure of Copenhagen. We must take now operational decisions to address adaptation and mitigation without the prejudice of legally binding agreement by 2011. We must take decisions on the process and a clear road map for COP 17 with a target to reach legally binding outcomes by achieving the reduction and stabilization of green house gases in the atmosphere, based on the principles and objective of the UNFCCC. In this

regard, developed country parties should reduce their GHGs emissions by at least 45% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050, and the emission peaking year must be reached by 2015, in order to ensure temperature limitation below 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels that have been recommended by scientists.

We urge all parties to keep the Kyoto Protocol alive and request for its amendment for the second commitment period for Annex B parties. We also invite all developing country parties, especially major economic countries to take voluntary mitigation actions under the NAMAs.

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We should decide here in Cancun, on the establishment of the Adaptation Framework for implementation and an Adaptation Committee in order to assist and facilitate the enhancement of adaptation actions in the most vulnerable countries, especially LDCs and SIDS. In the same way, we should also decide on the establishment on an international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

In addition, the Cancun Conference should also decide on the establishment of a new climate change fund under the authority and guidance of the COP with a view to support adaptation and mitigation activities in developing countries. The COP 16 should also make an operational decision on first start financing under the Copenhagen Accord with a balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation.

Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change adaptation and mitigation actions must be supported by technology development and transfer, and effective capacity building activities. In this regard, we must decide on the establishment of a Technology Executive Mechanism in order to assist adaptation and mitigation measures in developing countries. It is also of vital importance to enhance capacity building activities for developing country parties in

order to fully implement adaptation and mitigation activities, as well as to enhance climate change resilience in the most vulnerable countries.

In conclusion Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Timor-Leste is currently endeavoring to promote renewable energy policy programs and projects, mainly in the rural areas of the country which is home to the biggest percentage of our population. In this regard, financial, technological and capacity building support is urgently required under the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol in order to enable us to participate in NAMAs. In addition, Timor-Leste is also undertaking its NAPA preparation process that will be submitted very soon to the UNFCCC Secretariat for consideration. Regarding this, we would like to express our gratitude to GEF and its implementing agency, as well as the UNFCCC Secretariat and partners of development for the financial and technical support to this NAPA preparation process. We hope that the support will continue, since it's vital for the successful implementation of NAPA.

We would also welcome and support the extension and expansion of the mandate of LEG by SBI in Cancun as well as the continuation of the LDC Fund that will be vital to support the future NAPA implementation.

Thank you all for your kind attention.