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REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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MINISTRY OF FORESTRY AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
THE GAMBIA  
ON BEHALF OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES**

**AT THE**

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC  
AND**

**7<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE MEETING OF PARTIES  
TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP 6)  
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

- **Madam. President**
- **Your Excellencies, Heads of States & Government here present**
- **Secretary General of The United Nations**
- **Fellow Ministers here present**
- **Distinguished Delegates and**
- **Ladies and gentlemen from observer organizations and all our virtual friends who are following the Durban meeting around the world,**

**On behalf of people and the Government of The Gambia let me extend my warmest thanks to you Madam President and to the people of South Africa, especially to the citizens of this superfluous city of Durban for hosting us.**

**Gambia is once again highly honored to represent the 48 least developed countries. And on their behalf, please, kindly allow me to convey to all of you the greetings of The Gambian Leader and President, His Excellency, Sheikh, Professor, Alhagie, Dr. Yahya A.J.J Jammeh, his Government and the entire Gambian population. Let me also underscore our sincere appreciation and above all our profound thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of South Africa under the able leadership of President Jacob Zuma**

**and to you also in your capacity as our able President of the COP for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to us since our arrival. The hospitality and friendship shown to us daily by our South African brothers and sisters inside the conference and outside makes us feel as we are one big family. I thank you.**

**The Gambia on behalf of the LDCs would like to align itself with the statements made by the distinguished delegates of Argentina on behalf of the Group G-77 & China, the Democratic Republic of Congo on behalf of the African Group and Grenada on behalf of Alliance of Small Island Developing States.**

**Madam President,**

**I should not need to remind anyone here of the scale and of climatic threats facing the LDCs as a result of climate change. Some face being wiped off the face of the world map due to sea level rise or else face a barrage of extreme events that will result in loss of lives and livelihoods. Others face impending large scale migrations from areas rendered inhospitable and unproductive due to droughts and floods.**

**As we approach the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the 1992 UNFCCC, our special circumstances have been recognized countless times. But the collective needs of our countries to secure ambitious mitigation action to secure our livelihood are not being respected by those Parties whose emissions are causing climate change. Our human rights are now being violated. Our very survival is at stake.**

**And yet as I talk to my fellow ministers from LDC countries and get briefed by our officials, we are still too far from where we need to be to secure our right to sustainable development and to protect our vulnerable countries and communities from the devastating impacts of climate change.**

**Why is this?**

**After four rounds of IPCC reports, is the science not clear enough? Must we wait for another IPCC Report in 2015 to take action as is being suggested by some Parties?**

**Is it cheaper to delay mitigation action to 2020 or 2030 as some others are now saying? How many IPCC and IEA**

**reports, how many Stern Reviews, are needed before Parties heed what the best economists and energy experts are telling us: delay is more costly than early action. Delay causes deaths and grief and destruction. What further evidence is needed to deal with the litany of excuses LDCs are coming across day by day, year by year, to justify further delays?**

***Madam President,***

**You are only too aware that the stakes are high at Durban, As President you must cut not just one Gordian knot but many. You have to find the balanced outcomes between the Ad-hoc Working group on long-term cooperative Action and Ad-hoc Working Group on the Kyoto Protocol that eluded us at Copenhagen and Cancun.**

**Our Group is guided by the following fundamental principles which we hope will also underpin the decisions that we need to take in Durban:**

- The principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capability to be implemented in the spirit of global cooperation and partnership;**

- **Providing special priority to the special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries, the Small Island Developing States and Africa;**
- **The reflection of the polluter-pay-principle and**
- **The fulfillment of the right to development in an equitable and sustainable manner.**

***Madam President,***

**Like the vast majority of Parties here, we hope that Parties in Durban will *agree* a mandate under the Convention to accelerate negotiations for a protocol pursuant to Article 17 of the Convention or another legally binding instrument. And that negotiations to elaborate an instrument under this mandate will begin swiftly after Durban, aiming to conclude in the adoption of the instrument at the end of 2012. In terms of content, the instrument shall address all elements of the Bali Action Plan in a balanced manner with time-bound deliverables.**

**Without prejudice to a second commitment and subsequent commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol, *Madam***

***President and Colleagues,* the legally binding instrument under the AWG-LCA must operate alongside the second and subsequent commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol**

**We also hope all the necessary actions will be taken to allow us to fund the implementation of the decade old commitment to kick start adaptation actions. In addition, our work here is to fulfill what the COP at its 16<sup>th</sup> Session requested the SBI to further elaborate modalities and guidelines for the formulation and implementation of the National Adaptation Plans for adoption here in Durban. We need to come out of Durban with a COP decision that will initiate the process for formulation and implementation of the National Adaptation Plans of LDCs. It is fundamental that we further discuss means of implementation to operationalize the process that was established in Cancun.**

**Durban should as well operationalize a more efficient international financial mechanism that can deliver for the most vulnerable Parties. This will become concrete with the operationalization of the Standing Committee under the authority of and directly accountable to the COP. We need to enter into in-depth and frank discussions on the sources and**

**long-term finance. We also need to ensure there is no financial gap after the fast-start finance period that ends in 2012. A robust work program on sources and long term financing should be defined with clear terms of references and a timeline to ensure that the USD 100 billion goal by 2020 is met.**

***Madam President,***

**We expect that this Durban conference will in no small measure deliver concrete results on REDD+ and the Green Economy with an adaptation framework for implementation including an associated means of support for implementation. These results should be driven by effective ways by using institutions that are accountable under the authority and guidance of the COP especially for adaptation, financing, technology transfer and capacity building.**

***Madam President,***

**Sometimes all the arguments and feuds about what more is needed obscures all the action that is now going on in developing countries on mitigation and on adaptation.**



**We have limited resources and capacity but LDCs, like The Gambia takes implementation of its commitments very seriously.**

**With support from our bilateral and multilateral partners we are launching projects to address the serious threats posed by sea level rise, particularly on the capital city. Our National Climate Committee is almost completing its Second National Communications (SNC) for submission to the UNFCCC Secretariat. And we are very proud to announce small though our emissions are, the Gambia has also recently submitted its Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAS) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. If as a small nation with limited resources we can meet these challenges, we hope and expect other Parties to do even more.**

**Our own efforts can inspire others but will not prevent the extreme events and impacts now locked into the climate system. Now more than ever we need sustained level of predictable resources to deal with adapting and addressing multiple risks and disasters which we know will continue to rise in our country and other LDCs. Much of the funding for these efforts is coming from state coffers, not from donors**

**or only few. That is not right. We did not cause climate change. We are being left almost alone to face its impacts. Some Parties are now delaying the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund. That is not right as well. Adaptation must not be held hostage to the power games at play here. The LDCs continues to applaud the support of some countries to the LDCF. However, we still request the international community to honour their commitment by providing at least 3 billion US dollars that can easily be accessed, for the Least Developed Countries in the implementation of their NAPAs.**

**Madam President,**

**You can count on the support of the LDCs for a successful outcome in Durban.**

***Madam President:***

**Allow me to change hats from LDC chair to the Government of the Gambia to read the next part of my statement.**

**The Gambia's once again as expressed in Cancun is unequivocal in her position for Taiwan to be allowed an unconditionally to participate in this and all other UNFCCC fora. My country and delegation's position is based on the following reasons;**

- Taiwan's exclusion is contrary to the spirit of the UNFCCC – the global nature of climate change calls for widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate response (See paragraph 6 of article 7);**
- Taiwan is vulnerable to more frequent extreme weather events brought by climate change;**
- Taiwan's exclusion makes the global mechanism to prevent carbon leakage more comprehensive;**
- As an observer in the UNFCCC, Taiwan could contribute to the international community;**

- **Taiwan's ability to reduce carbon emissions and its duty to cooperate internationally;**
- **Taiwan's substance efforts towards mitigating climate change has been successful;**
- **Taiwan has the ability to develop green economics;**
- **Taiwan has enacted their legislation and has established a general plan for National Energy Conservation and Carbon Reduction;**
- **It has launched a 10 years project for Low-carbon; communities enhancing carbon capture;**
- **Taiwan's meaningful participation in UNFCCC has won increasing international support and that**
- **As a vital part of and player in the world economy, Taiwan can provide support to combat Climate Change.**

**It is against this premise that The Gambia will continue to fully call for all parties to support the participation of Taiwan at all COPs as an observer.**

**We therefore again request from the UNFCCC Secretariat to discontinue and disregard the listing of Taiwan's NGOs which is an Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI), from China's category, and take immediate remedial action**

**on all UNFCCC correspondence, publications, and official website.**

**I thank you for your kind attention.**

