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Statement delivered by

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Lesotho

At the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the Parties
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Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto
Protocol (CMP 7)

DURBAN, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Madam President,

I congratulate you for your election, and assure you of my delegation's unconditional support.

This COP17 presents us with yet another opportunity, to save our planet from inescapable cataclysmic event due to uncontrollable yet avoidable temperature rise. In the view of my delegation, the Kyoto Protocol (KP) is the cornerstone of the UNFCCC process. It provides the framework for the reduction of the global emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The future of the KP should be guided by the authoritative and informed findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and not by "political thinking".

Our expectations for COP17 are as follows:

1. An agreement on the second commitment period that would address increased emissions of greenhouse gases.
2. An agreement on important elements of the overall finance regime for the Convention, including the Fast Start Finance and the Green Climate Fund.
3. An agreement on an Adaptation Committee to enhance global adaptation and related activities such as technology and capacity building.

These agreements would enable countries like Lesotho, that have limited capacity to adapt to the effects of climate change, to better harmonize their developmental programmes particularly in agriculture, water and environmental management with the emerging climate patterns.

Madam President,

At this point, I wish to share Lesotho's efforts at addressing climate change.

1. Lesotho has adopted a "Low carbon development path" such that our industrial output will be based on green energy sources in the very near future.
2. Already 75% of Lesotho's electricity is derived from renewable energy sources. And most significantly,
3. Arrangements are underway to develop wind energy power plants that will produce 6000 Megawatts of electricity and a total of 4000 Megawatts from hydro.

Through these initiatives, Lesotho hopes to participate in Carbon Trading Agreements with developed countries under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol. Mind you, these initiatives and others of a similar nature derive from the Kyoto Protocol, hence our anxiety for the survival of this important protocol.

I conclude, **Madam President**, by re-emphasizing the need for a successful conclusion of COP17 that would save our planet for mankind.

I thank you.