

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



Statement By
Dr. Donald Kaberuka
President

Madam Chairperson

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting the African Development Bank. I **wish to thank the Government of the Republic of South Africa** and the organisers for the excellent preparation and their warm reception.

It is unquestionable that the greatest calamities facing humanity this century are global poverty and climate change. It is pertinent therefore that we are meeting in Africa – a continent where these two challenges interact at their most.

Over the past two weeks, we have noted **the commitment from all Parties towards a successful and expeditious implementation of the Cancun agreements.**

Today, we would like to leave you with **two key messages:**

- **First, we cannot afford to have a gap in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.**

The clock is ticking. We must reach an agreement to extend the Kyoto Protocol. We therefore urge all parties to muster the political will to close the remaining gap.

- **Second, we need to get the Green Climate Fund, and begin the tasks of making it operational**

We wish to commend the COP for establishing the Green Climate Fund in Cancun. We recognize that there will be more to do in the next few months on the governance, access, but above all, the issue of capitalization and need for progress on the innovative sources of funds.

We are keen to see an improvement over the existing instruments that did not fully take into account adaptation as a priority for Africa, the complex procedures for implementation and criteria for access.

In conclusion, let me emphasize here that the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol and a sound financing framework that can provide easy and direct access to recipient countries are necessary components of an acceptable deal in Durban.

Our Continent, Africa, has made progress over the last ten years. That risks now to be compromised if no solid agreement is reached here.

The ambitions needed must reflect the weight of scientific evidence and consequences for low income countries.

Africa has waited too long for a deal and cannot afford to wait any longer. Thank you.