

Madam President
Excellencies, Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Peruvian hosts for their splendid hospitality given to me and my delegates since our arrival here, in this beautiful city Lima.

Climate change is the most urgent global challenge. We must keep pushing together for solutions to do more and to act accordingly. Therefore, we must agree on what have to be done in the coming years.

Let me first tell you what we are doing in Ethiopia.

As you all know, Ethiopia is still a Least Developed Country even if its gross domestic product has been growing by an average of more than 10% for the last 11 years. Also as you all know, our Convention does not require developing country Parties, let alone the least developed among them, to take mandatory mitigation actions.

This is both - because developing country Parties have contributed virtually nothing to the global increases in greenhouse gases, and equally importantly, because their capacity to take mitigation actions is very low.

But we in Ethiopia believe that however small our contribution to the atmospheric content of greenhouse gases is and however small our capacity is, we need to do the best we can **to mitigate climate change**, and **not only to adapt to it**.

That is why we have developed and are implementing our **Programme of Adaptation to Climate Change**. That is also why, under the leadership of our late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, we formulated our vision of developing our country

to make it a **zero net carbon emitter of middle income status by 2025**, taking 2010 as a base year.

As of this year, our electrical grid is generated entirely from renewable resources. We know that it will take time for grid electricity to reach all households. And for the same reason, we are also investing in off-grid power systems, efficient cook stoves and biogas technologies.

Similarly, we are also planting billions of tree seedlings each year to rehabilitate and reforest our degraded landscapes, much of it supported by soil moisture retention structures (micro basins, trenches, and terraces). The treated areas are indeed protected from any kind of unnecessary human and animal interference and therefore the change is also found to be highly encouraging in all terms: economically, and ecologically.

The country is also aggressively moving for industrializing its economy. However, we do not want our industrialization process to contribute to the globally serious environmental problem of climate change. As a country, we believe we have the opportunity to do it the greener way. As I have tried to state it above; Ethiopia is believed to have ample potential for renewable sources development and therefore can easily free itself from the pollutant energy system (the fossil fuel and coal).

I could have said more on how we are implementing our Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy.

But time does not allow me. However, I would like to add just one thing. Our climate actions and efforts would not have been as effective as they have turned out to be, if our development partners, who are all developed country Parties to the Convention on Climate Change, and the United Nations system, had not been very helpful – both technically and financially.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

This conference seems to be very critical if we want to have a legally binding agreement in Paris next year. Therefore, we must work together for the common outcome. To make agreement possible, we must leave Lima with a **clear roadmap** reaching a consensus. The Paris agreement must be rigorous enough, and it has to support concrete actions and measures.

In this regard, Ethiopia has made a courageous decision on embarking CRGE and experienced encouraging results on the ground. I hope that our example will inspire others to raise their sights far most, to be ambitious, and to find a way forward.

We owe success in Lima and then in Paris to our coming generations.

Thank you very much.