



GOVERNMENT OF THE GAMBIA

STATEMENT

BY

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DECEMBER 2014.

Mr. President
H.E. President of Peru, Columbia and Chile
Madam Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC
Honourable Ministers
Observer Organisations
Distinguish Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President,

I wish to thank you, your Team and the Government and people of Peru for the hospitality you have shown to us. It is an honour to be in this part of the world.

As a former UNFCCC negotiator, it is a great pleasure to be with you in my capacity as Minister. Let me assure you that I am missing friends and the process as a whole.

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Let us make history. Let us make history for a safe, climate resilient and climate neutral world. A world where there is zero poverty, and zero emissions.

Let us achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention, once and for all. Business-as-usual is not an option.

Let us make history by taking bold decisions that will protect the current and future generations of humankind.

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Let us make history, and let us do it now. The science is clear. This is our last chance to act if we are to avoid catastrophic impacts of a 4-6 degree warmer world.

Despite the bleak scenarios projected in the IPCC 5th assessment report, the window of opportunity is not yet closed. Solutions are available and feasible. But our chances of success are fast escaping us. It is high time to act now.

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit and the People's Climate March in September shone the spotlight on the climate change crisis, and demanded urgency of action by all Parties and actors. I applaud LDCs like Ethiopia, whose government pledged to have zero net emissions by 2025 and Tuvalu who announced that their country would employ 100% renewable energy in its electricity supply by 2020.

And the world is beginning to take note.

We are receiving clear signals from the largest emitters that responding to climate change is a matter of highest importance in the political agenda.

Among these are the EU's plans to reduce emissions by at least 40% by 2030; the United States' intention to reduce emissions 26% - 28% below 2005 levels by 2025; and the People's Republic of China's announcement that it will endeavour to peak its emissions around 2030.

While we welcome these announcements, we also recognize that they will not bring about a future in which temperature rise is limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and the goal of a climate neutral world by 2070 as called for by the recent UNEP report.

And therefore we are far from writing history.

This past month, we also saw pledges to the Green Climate Fund reach over 10 billion US dollars. We note with particular appreciation the voluntary pledges made by our fellow developing countries, including Peru, which demonstrates the will to foster south-south cooperation and solidarity.

The Least developed Countries have seen an increase in the Least Developed Country Fund in the past years. However, the LDCF is now almost empty and our countries are waiting for further funding to implement our urgent and immediate adaptation needs.

We are encouraged by the momentum that has been generated. Even with all this effort, however, we are far from reaching the target of at least 100 billion US dollars per year by 2020.

And therefore we are far from writing history.

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

In this regard, the Gambia joins the rest of the world in making history. We have already begun preparing our mitigation contribution to the 2015 agreement. We plan to submit this contribution by the earliest deadline.

**Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,**

I began my remarks by saying that I used to be a negotiator in this process. In 2011, I said that this ship was about to take off in Durban. On behalf of the LDCs, I asked those who were not ready to come on board to please not try to sink the ship.

That ship has become what we now call the 2015 agreement, which is set to define the future global effort to combat climate change; and which did indeed set sail in Durban. It is now passing through Lima, and all have said they wish to come on board. It now needs to carefully balance its cargo so that it might successfully reach Paris.

Mr President,

Though we have much to do in Lima, The Gambia has every confidence in your leadership. Once again, I extend the sincere appreciation of the Gambian Delegation to you, your team, and the Government and people of Peru for their warm hospitality.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR LISTENING

Mochas Gracias