

Statement by the Head of Delegation of the Republic of Mauritius
at the High Level Segment of the UNFCCC COP20/CMP10
Lima, Peru, 11 December 2014

Mr. President
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of Peru for its warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements for the organization of this high level meeting on Climate Change in this historic and vibrant city, Lima.

At the very outset, I would like to express the full support of Mauritius to the statements made earlier on behalf of the AOSIS, the Africa group and the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

At this critical juncture, we are starting these negotiations with the somber knowledge that progress is too slow. The year 2014 is likely to be the hottest year on record and emissions continue to rise. Vulnerable countries around the globe continue to suffer disastrous impacts of climate change. Facts cannot be denied. We must act with urgency, and we trust that this COP in Lima will come up with a positive and constructive outcome prior to the much awaited Climate Change Summit in Paris next year.

Mauritius, as a highly vulnerable SIDS is already facing devastating effects of extreme weather events and climate variabilities. The flash floods of last year in the Capital city caused 11 deaths with over USD 25 million worth of material damages. This year, Mauritius is facing a serious water deficit. We reemphasize that the climate challenges ahead for Mauritius are huge, especially when considering the facts that water supply by 2030 may not be sufficient to satisfy projected demand, agricultural production may decline by as much as 30% and that several beaches which are so important for our tourism industry may slowly disappear, thus severely undermining one of our major economic pillars depriving the economy value worth over USD 50 million by 2050.

Our livelihoods are at stake. It would be insensitive to further delay the long overdue responses.

Mauritius wishes to take this opportunity to underscore the importance of the 2013-2015 Review. The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report reveals (with high to very high level of confidence) serious risks to ecosystems and livelihoods as well as to sustainable development for the most vulnerable countries such as SIDS and LDCs at levels of warming of 2°C. In fact, moderate to high risks are identified at 1.5 degree Celsius with very stark implications for the cost of adaptation and permanent loss and damage. We are therefore emphasizing that the outcome of the Review should be seriously taken into

account in setting the level of ambition for the long term global goal in the 2015 agreement.

Constructive efforts are required by all parties to achieve the overall objective of limiting global warming to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius. Our survival is at stake.

Mr President,

The latest IPCC report also confirms that the GHG emissions are still on the rise. If we are to save the world from the impending climate crisis, the commitments by developed countries to deliver emission reductions consistent with science and historical responsibility must be scaled up. This is of paramount importance. We therefore, urge Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to ratify the Doha Amendment and to fulfil their respective GHG reduction commitments. It is more than urgent that developed countries demonstrate leadership and solidarity with the most vulnerable countries.

In response to mitigation, the Government of Mauritius has made sustainable development as its long term strategy. Several activities aiming at greening of our economy have been undertaken with our limited means under the Prime Minister's "Maurice Ile Durable" initiative. Mauritius has set the following targets:

- (i) achieving 35 % of renewable energy production by 2025;
- (ii) 10% energy efficiency from the non-residential and public sector buildings by 2020; and
- (iii) 35% reduction in consumption of energy in the transport sector by 2025.

Necessary legislations have recently been passed on energy efficiency and on climate resilient and energy efficient buildings. We will be shortly having a Climate Change Bill for Mauritius. Additionally, a series of other mitigation projects are also being undertaken. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development is working on a Low Carbon Development Strategy and Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions with a view to mainstream low emission development pathways in the institutional framework and into core development plans, policy, and strategies for Mauritius.

Mr President,

With the increasing and more pronounced impacts of climate change, the adaptation needs for SIDS, Africa and least developed countries are urgent. Mauritius welcomes the contributions to the initial capitalization of the Green Climate Fund. We are pleased to see that the GCF is finally becoming a reality. However, we are concerned that too many and too stringent conditions are likely to be attached with the pledges. We want to stress that financial issues are central to the success of this COP. Long Term Finance and Guidance to the Green Climate Fund are of particular importance to us. We must see significant progress here toward providing more predictability and clarity on how developed country Parties will fulfill their pledge of mobilizing \$100 billion USD per year by 2020. This is essential to restore trust in this process and give developing

countries the assurance that support to enhance our adaptation and mitigation actions will be available when we need it.

The GCF must be in a position to start approving projects and programmes by mid-2015 and immediately make funding available thereafter. A priority must be fast-tracking the accreditation of entities required to facilitate direct access to resources to ensure swift implementation on the ground.

The Government of Mauritius has developed its National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework, which has set the basis of its major actions to build resilience against climate change. It covers the climate sensitive sectors, namely: agriculture, fisheries, coastal ecosystems and water. We have assessed our priority needs and come up with a climate investment programme for adaptation and disaster risk reduction amounting to some USD 300 million for the coming 10 years. More importantly, a Climate Change Information Centre has been set up to disseminate information on climate change and serve as a digital platform to enhance the skills and knowledge of local stakeholders. We are presently working towards upgrading the Centre into a regional CC observatory with the collaboration of the Indian Ocean Commission Member States.

We seize this opportunity to thank all our partners including the EU, the Government of Japan, the GEF and others who have made it possible for us to come this far. However, we need to steadily pursue this goal further. We still have a very long way to go to make Mauritius climate resilient.

To conclude, Mr. President, I wish to emphasize that Mauritius needs the technical and financial support of the international community and development partners to pursue our adaptation and mitigation goals.

I thank you for your kind attention.