

Statement of

**By H.E. Abdelfattah Al Sisi, President of Egypt
And Coordinator of the Committee of the African Heads of state and government on Climate
Change (CAHOSCC)**

**Before the Twenty First Session of the Conference of the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change
Paris, 30 November 2015**

H.E. President of the French Republic
Excellencies Heads of State and Government
Mr. Secretary General of the United Nations
Mrs. Secretary General of the UNFCCC

At the outset, I would like to thank H.E. the French President for the kind invitation, hospitality and organization. I also express my condolences to the leadership and people of France for the victims of the vicious terrorist attacks in Paris, and we reiterate our strong condemnation of these attacks and the full solidarity of Egypt with France in our common fight against all kinds of terrorism.

We are facing a crucial juncture in our international endeavor, as all of our peoples are watching us and hoping that this Conference proves to be a turning point in achieving our common goal to secure a better future for humanity and protect the rights of the next generations, by reaching an ambitious, sustainable and balanced international agreement to face the increasingly dangerous climate change-related challenges.

Few months ago, we all participated in adopting an international ambitious developmental agenda on sustainable development and poverty eradication. The effort that has been exerted in formulating this agenda and the effort that will be exerted to implement it could fail if this agenda is not supported by an international agreement that strongly addresses climate change challenges and achieves the desired balance between economic development, social development, and environment protection.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Egypt has, and will continue to, play a constructive role in all of the climate change negotiating rounds leading to this Conference, in view of its responsibility to represent the African continent, and defend the African interests and legitimate rights. Our position has been based on the necessity that any new international agreement should not harm the African countries right to development or impede its efforts to eradicate poverty, especially that Africa is the least contributor to harmful emissions, yet it is the most affected continent by climate change repercussions. Therefore, it is imperative that any flexibility arrangements in the agreement

should include the African countries, together with the least developed countries and small island developing states.

Africa also calls for an international agreement that is based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between developed and developing countries in facing climate change challenges, in accordance to the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and to achieve balance among the various components of this agreement. Thus, it is unacceptable that we give most of our attention to mitigation without attaching similar importance to the other components of the agreement, especially those related to developing the adaptation capabilities of the developing countries, and it is also important that the agreement includes a global target on adaptation.

The agreement should also be legally binding as long as it encompasses clearly defined commitments for the developed countries to provide the developing world with the adequate support in terms of financing, capacity building, and advanced technology, in order to enable the African and other developing countries to adapt and transform our economies to achieve sustainable development, in addition to a clear commitment in the agreement that the increase in temperature does not exceed 1.5 degrees, and to avoid shifting the burden of mitigation from the developed to the developing countries.

The issues of financing, capacity building and technology should not be viewed as merely negotiating positions but a strong necessity and a main indicator on the seriousness of the international community to face climate change challenges. A recent report of the United Nations Environment Programme indicated that Africa needs between 7 and 15 billion dollars annually until 2020 for adaptation, and needs between 50 to 100 billion dollars annually until 2050, and that the financing which our continent can only provide would not exceed 3 billion dollars annually, which means that there will be a financing gap not less than 12 billion dollars annually until 2020 and will keep increasing after 2020 by much higher rates. Therefore, if the agreement does not effectively and transparently address the financing issue, it will be born weak and will prove to be unsustainable. So it is imperative that the agreement reflects a commitment to provide 100 billion dollars annually to the developing countries by 2020, to be doubled beyond 2020.

This is the framework in which the African states took the lead by developing two initiatives. The first initiative aims at promoting renewable energy in Africa and the other initiative endeavors to support our continent on adaptation. I call on the international community, either governments, private sector or regional and international organizations, to lend full support to these two vital initiatives, which contribute to our international endeavor on addressing climate change challenges.

I also invite the international community to provide Egypt with the needed support in this field. Egypt, as well as all African countries, met our commitment on submitting our intended nationally determined contributions, in continuation of the serious steps we undertook in this

field, including launching our comprehensive national strategy in Egypt on sustainable development until 2030.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite of the difficulty and severity of the challenges that we are endeavoring to address, I am confident that we have enough determination, wisdom and solidarity to overcome these challenges and realize another historic achievement in the field of international cooperation, which will secure a brighter future for our peoples and for the future generations.

Thank you.