

THE REPUBLIC



OF THE GAMBIA

STATEMENT

BY

**HONOURABLE FATOU NDEY GAYE
MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, PARKS AND WILDLIFE**

AT THE

JOINT HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

OF THE

**NINETENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC (COP
19)**

AND THE

**NINETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC SERVING
AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP 9)**

**11 NOVEMBER TO 22 NOVEMBER 2013
WARSAW, POLLAND**

Mr. President

Honourable Ministers

Distinguish Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring you greetings from Honourable Fatou Ndey Gaye, Minister of the Environment, Parks and Wildlife. Honourable Gaye is unable to join us in Warsaw because of pressing national duties. She wishes all of us fruitful deliberations and a successful Conference. I now read the statement that was to be delivered by Honourable Minister Gaye.

Mr. President
Honourable Ministers
Members of the Diplomatic Missions
Distinguish Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

At this point, I wish to convey sincere condolences from the Government and people of The Gambia to the Government and people of Philippines for the devastating super Typhoon Haiyan.

Mr. President
Honourable Ministers,

Let me start this statement by saying 'if Doha was a gateway to 2015, Warsaw is one of the first fundamental milestones. Also Warsaw marks the halfway to Paris. The science is settled and the problem of climate change identified. Recent studies indicate that the projected greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere over the 21st century will have detrimental and disruptive effects on human and economic activities around the world.

This year's UNEP gap report shows that there has been no decline in emissions and the gap remains at 8 -12 billion tonnes of annual carbon-dioxide equivalent emissions (GtCO₂e/yr). This means it is likely to lead to a warming of 3-4°C by 2100 base on the current insufficient pledges of parties by 2020.

Africa is anticipated to be the most negatively affected continent on the planet due to a combination of severe projected impacts and relatively low adaptive capacity.

Mr. President,
The Durban decision to "launch a process to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention decision applicable to all Parties", represent a long overdue acknowledgement that the Convention, and the Kyoto Protocol are insufficient to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention.

The ratification of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, operationalization of the outcomes of the Bali Action Plan as well as a strong political indication of the Durban Platforms should provide the necessary impetus leading into focus discussion in 2014 in preparation for the 2015 Agreement in Paris. This requires bold and urgent steps from all Parties with the developed countries taking the lead.

Mr. President
Honourable Ministers

Based on results from national, regional and global assessments, The Gambia contributed about 0.01% to the Greenhouse Gas emissions and concentration in the atmosphere. However, the impacts of global warming and climate change on the country are not commensurate to our contribution to the problem.

With the projected warming and drying of The Gambia under climate change, food insecurity is exacerbated, ecosystems and their services will be seriously eroded, climate change induced sea level rise will inundate the Capital City of Banjul and other coastal settlements and the infrastructure and health impacts thereof will be enormous.

Mr. President

Based on our Second National Communication, mean annual temperature is projected to increase while relative humidity and rainfall are projected to decrease by the end of the century. Food insecurity is projected to exacerbate and ecosystems and their services will be eroded. What is more alarming is that with a sea-level rise of 1m, about 92 km² of the coastal zone will be under water, including the capital city of Banjul. This is also confirmed by the most recent published UNEP Adaptation Gap Report

Mr. President

We will not wait for climate change to destroy us. Since our ratification of the Convention, The Gambia has taken very important steps at the national, regional and global levels to face the challenges of climate change. Studies have been conducted and strategic documents produced and disseminated. These include two National Communications, the NAPA, the National NAMA and a Sectoral NAMA on Agriculture; the development of both NAMAs was supported by the African Development Bank.

In 2011, we started implementing projects from our NAPA covering the development of an Early Warning System and Coastal Zone Project. But *Mr. President*, the LDCF POT is drying and some countries including The Gambia are waiting for replenishment to continue implementation of other NAPA Projects.

In this respect, we would like to thank the Government of the United Kingdom for pledging 50 Million Pounds Sterling to the LDCF yesterday and urge other parties in a position to do to follow suit.

Mr. President

Colleagues, Honourable Ministers

We in The Gambia have realized that since 1992, our implementation of the Convention has been Ad-hoc and this has proved to be fragmented and does not promote sustainability of efforts. Thus, in 2011 we initiated the process of mainstreaming climate change into our development frameworks. With financial support from the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), we have integrated climate change into the Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE), the

successor to the Gambia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper II. The PAGE is the four-year (2012 to 2015) blue print for the implementation of the Gambia Vision 2020.

The Climate Change Priority Action Plan (CC-PAP) of the PAGE is costed at about US\$47 Million and includes activities to enable mainstreaming of climate change into the national development process through the development of Low Carbon Strategy, integration of climate change into national and sectoral policies and programmes, integration of climate change into education curricular from basic to higher education and to try and address the climate data needs of the country.

As part of the implementation of the PAGE and with support from the European Union, we have embarked on the development of a National Climate Policy. UNDP is also supporting us initiate the process of developing a low carbon climate resilient developing strategy and integrating climate change adaptation into ongoing disaster risk reduction policy review and overall planning process.

The African Climate Policy Centre of the Economic Commission for Africa is supporting the modernization of meteorological and hydrological services and rescuing data.

Mr. President

We are thus ready and have actually initiated our National Adaptation Plan process, having been included in the UNDP-UNEP Global Support Programme.

Mr. President

The Gambia is doing all it can to contribute towards the global efforts in reducing its greenhouse gas emission and building the resilience of the communities in accordance with its sustainable development and poverty eradication strategies.

We therefore call on developed countries to take the lead in providing the means of implementation to enable developing countries particularly the least developed countries address the adverse impacts of climate change.

We came here expecting Warsaw to be a finance COP and we would be disappointed if Warsaw comes out without a concrete decision on finance, particularly with a pathway and numbers on how to close the financing gap between 2013 and 2020.

Finally, and through you *Mr. President*, the Delegation of the Gambia sincerely appreciates the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to it by the Government and the people of Poland.

Honourable Ministers and distinguish Delegates, Thank you very much for your attention.