

**Statement by the Head of Delegation of the Republic of
Mauritius
at the High Level Segment of the UNFCCC COP19/CMP9
Warsaw, Poland, 21 November 2013**

**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 Poland for its warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements for the organization of this high level meeting on Climate Change in the wonderful city of Warsaw.

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,

We are concerned with the slow progress. This COP is very decisive in terms of charting a clear pathway for achieving the 2015 legally binding outcome. This COP has to be a COP of raised ambitions in terms of mitigation as well as up scaling of means of implementation. We need urgent measures and actions to halt the rapid increase in greenhouse emissions and the pace of global warming. We trust that under your abled leadership, this Conference of Parties in Warsaw will deliver a positive and constructive outcome.

I will now focus my intervention on three issues:

First, the urgency to address climate change needs not be re-emphasized. Latest scientific reports are another blatant reminder that human activities continue to have a profound impact on SIDS, LDCs and Africa now and for many generations to come.

Mauritius, as a highly vulnerable SIDS is already facing the devastating effects of extreme weather events. The recent extreme flash flood event which occurred in March this year in Mauritius caused 11 deaths with over USD 25 million material damages.

We can not stop reiterating 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, that 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.

Mr. President,

Our livelihoods and survival are at stake. It would be insensitive and irresponsible to further delay the long overdue responses. Constructive efforts are required by all parties to achieve the overall objective of limiting global warming to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Second is Mitigation. Mr. President, the latest UNEP Gap Emission Report is clear. If we are to save the world from the impending climate crisis, the commitments by developed countries

party must be scaled up to deliver emission reductions consistent with science and historical responsibility. This is a must and not an option. A real demonstration of leadership from developed countries and solidarity with the most vulnerable states are more than ever required at this critical juncture.

Mr. President,

In response to this challenge, 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 known as "(MID)". Mauritius has set the target of achieving 35 % of renewable energy production by the year 2025. Necessary legislation has recently been passed on energy efficiency and on climate resilient and energy efficient buildings. We will be shortly be 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 (NAMAs) with a view to mainstream climate change mitigation in the institutional framework and into core development plans, policy, and strategies for Mauritius.

Third, is the need for adequate and predictable finance to meet the cost of adaptation and mitigation. In this context, sustainable and adequate capitalization of the Green Climate Fund is a must. **Mr. President,** the cost for adapting to impacts of climate change is escalating rapidly.

The Government of Mauritius has approved its National Climate Change Adaptation Policy Framework, which is the first report for the Republic of Mauritius. 12 technologies have been prioritized following a thorough consultative process and assessment from an initial list of 128 technologies for enhanced climate change mitigation in the Energy sector and adaptation in the Agriculture, Water and Coastal Zone sectors.

We have set up a Climate Change Information Centre to disseminate information on climate change and serve as a digital platform to enhance the skills and knowledge of all stakeholders.

I would like to seize this opportunity to thank all our partners such as the EU, Government of Japan and others who have made it possible for us to come this far. However, we need to pursue this goal further. We still have a very long way to go to make Mauritius climate resilient. We have come up with a climate investment programme as well as a Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Action Plan in the context of our “Maurice Ile Durable’ initiative amounting to some USD 300 million in the coming 10 years. **Mr. President**, Mauritius needs the technical and financial support of the international community and development partners to pursue our adaptation and mitigation programme.

Mr President, Sir,

As a developing Country, *We cannot remain insensible and indifferent to the Victims of Cyclone HAIYAN, which has once more shown our vulnerability to climatic disasters.*

Mauritius presents its *sincere sympathy* and *condolences* to the families mourning their dear ones and pray God that The Phillipines recovers quickly.

Mr President, Sir,

I will hopefully *wake up* Tomorrow and learn that ALL COMMITMENTS and OBLIGATIONS made by delegates attending this COP Meeting have been HONOURED and that everybody going back will take the good news A MESSAGE OF NEW HOPES FOR THE KYOTO PROTOCOLE and a NEW MINDSET for the placeyou all call EARTH and we call HOME.

Mauritius, therefore makes a sincere plea to all those BOLD and COURAGEOUS leaders to make the difference TO DAY for a better legacy.

I am sure, Our Children and those yet to come will read the 2013 COP meeting proceedings in Golden Letters and Time will treasure and Cherish TO DAY as a landmark and turning point in the HISTORY of Climate Change.

- Remember, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi, Mao Tse Toum and Now Nelson Mandela, They all made a bold Step.
- Remember, in this very country, in the last century, people graved their today for OUR To–morrow.
- Let us therefore mark our gratitude and reciprocate this courtesy by saying YES to our MORAL obligations and Duties.
- Let us make this Historical Step *which will be a step for climate resilience and a giant step for HUMANITY.*

Mr President, Sir,

I move, with your Kind Permission, for a standing OVATION to be given IN ADVANCE for those bold and courageous leaders who will rise above their needs to serve the cause in conviction and translate the theme I CARE into practice. For those People who can make the difference.

To conclude, Chair,

Mauritius reiterates its wish to work with all parties

“Alone we are INVISIBLE... Together we are INVINCIBLE”

Seule nous sommes que l' arbre

Ensemble nous la Foret, havre de paix at d' amour

Thank you for your Kind Attention.