



High-Level Event on Climate Change
New York, 29 June 2015
Statement by
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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Mr. President of the UN General Assembly Sam K. Kutesa,
Mr. Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon,
Honorable President of the Republic of Kiribati,
President of COP 20 and incoming President of COP 21,
Distinguished Ministers and Permanent Members,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to join this distinguished group for the High-Level Discussion on Climate Change, and I thank President of the General Assembly, Mr. Sam Kutesa, for convening this important event.

I am very pleased that you are all here, for it is precisely political leaders who need to inject the necessary political impetus that takes us from good success in Paris to shining success in Paris.

In this moment, a climate change agreement is emerging in the Framework Convention negotiations. That agreement is applicable to all, but diverse in its application. In recognition of the many immediate and lasting national-level benefits of global climate action, the global agreement is not punitive but rather enabling and facilitative in nature.

The agreement is meant to lead us all toward a low emission, highly resilient global economy, through progression over time, recognizing initial national contributions as a baseline that will be improved upon regularly and reported transparently, as well as recognizing the increasing engagement and action of an exponentially growing number of stakeholders.

The agreement will be financially and technically supportive of developing countries, contributing to a safe development path that lifts populations out of poverty and opens opportunity even as countries adapt to the impacts already built in to the climate system.

While these contours of the agreement are emerging, we know there are still high-level political challenges ahead. Your ability to overcome those challenges will determine the degree to which the Paris Agreement can indeed be beneficial to all.

There is no doubt that financing is the most crucial component yet to be clarified. The Green Climate Fund is operational and will begin to make allocations this year but needs further capitalization. Credible clarity must be provided on the pathway to the \$100 billion per year, including special and most urgent attention for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Furthermore, governments must determine how to respond to the urgent need for adaptation and the loss and damage that climate change will inevitably inflict, while at the same time charting the course of the long-term direction toward climate neutrality that enables and does not inhibit economic and social development.

Distinguished ministers here today, you have already heard the COP 20 President announce the co-chairs will provide a more organized version of the text on July 24. But let me assure you there are no surprises in that new version. While much work still needs to be done by your delegations under your direction, the political challenges are abundantly clear.

Those political challenges require your direct and urgent engagement. There is much political will already being displayed. But time is running out and we must now turn that political will into clear leadership – leadership to find the common ground, leadership to raise the collective ambition, leadership to protect the most vulnerable leadership to answer the call of history.

Today's video and every speaker before me reminds us that never before has it been so evident that we can address both climate change and sustainable development with the same measures. This is your moment to ensure we create jobs, ensure energy access, safeguard food and water, improve health and protect economic and social stability for the future.

This is your moment to deliver the benefits of a safe future and global growth to your citizens now and for generations to come.

Dear Ministers, you and your peers, this is your moment.

Thank you.

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