

STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF DELEGATION FOR ZIMBABWE, MS F. R. NHEKAIRO AT COP 18 AND CMP 8 ON 6 DECEMBER 2012: DOHA, QATAR

Your Excellency Mr Abdullah bin Hamad Al- Tiya, President of COP 18,

Honourable Ministers,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you Mr President, on your election as President of COP 18 and CMP 8. My delegation is confident that with you presiding over this Conference, we will be able to reach a successful outcome this week. Allow me on behalf of my delegation, to also express our appreciation and gratitude to the Government and people of Qatar for their hospitality and warm welcome to this beautiful city of Doha.

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statements made by Swaziland on behalf of the Africa Group and Algeria on behalf of the G77 and China.

Mr President,

Zimbabwe and most of Africa continue to face numerous severe negative impacts arising from the adverse effects of climate change. In our part of the world, we are witnessing adverse effects of climate change in the form of increases in frequency and intensity of cyclones, floods, drought and desertification. These adverse effects threaten the sustainable development, livelihoods and the very existence of many of our people. Such impacts are hampering Africa's and indeed my country's efforts to attain the internationally agreed goals including the Millennium Development Goals.

Moreover, my country has already experienced drastic changes in weather patterns adversely affecting various sectors of the economy, particularly agriculture, water and health. Agriculture is the backbone of Zimbabwe's economy, providing raw materials for the industrial sector and supporting seventy percent of Zimbabwe's population. Agriculture is the source of livelihood for people living in communal and resettlement areas, among them women and children. This is why Zimbabwe is adamant that agriculture be treated as an adaptation issue under these negotiations. It is a means of survival for most of our people.

Mr President,

On its part, Zimbabwe has been meeting its obligations under the Convention. Zimbabwe was among the first few countries to submit the Initial National Communication to the COP. I take this opportunity to inform that Zimbabwe has concluded the Second National Communication and copies have been submitted to the UNFCCC. The findings from various assessments in the Second National Communication have clearly demonstrated the need for a coordinated approach to handling climate change issues. As a result, the country has embarked on an intensive country-wide inclusive consultative process to gather inputs for the formulation of the National Climate Change Response Strategy. It is expected to be completed by the second quarter of 2013.

Mr President,

We are all agreed that climate change is a global challenge that requires urgent international action and response. All Parties have a responsibility in Doha to sustain the momentum to address climate change, as this is critical for the achievement of sustainable development. My delegation shares the view that efforts to address climate change, should be in a manner that enhances the

sustainable development and sustained economic growth of our countries and the universal elimination of poverty, hunger and disease.

All three pillars of sustainable development (economic development, social development and environmental protection) should be addressed in an integrated, coordinated and balanced manner. In addition, decisions on climate change should fulfill the commitments undertaken at the Rio +20 Summit and premised on the principles of the Convention.

Mr President,

Zimbabwe is deeply concerned by the slow progress of negotiations, particularly the delays caused by some from the developed country Parties on various issues. Without effective mitigation, all efforts to address climate change will remain fruitless. Developed countries have a specific responsibility in instituting deeper cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the commitments made under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol.

We are of the view that the lack of fulfillment by developed countries of their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol is one of the formidable challenges in tackling climate change. Zimbabwe therefore joins others in urging Annex I Parties to show leadership through raising their level of ambition in emissions reduction targets to the scale required by science and equity under the Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Furthermore, Zimbabwe calls for an ambitious, ratifiable, legally binding Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol beginning on 1 January 2013. We also urge those Annex 1 Parties who are not part to the second commitment period to take commitments that are comparable in magnitude and effort to other Annex I countries. These commitments must be Measurable, Reportable and Verifiable.

Mr President,

An agreed outcome and successful closure of the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action to enhance the implementation of the Convention is imperative for the success of this conference. Adaptation is key for us to respond to climate change and to build the resilience for our communities.

Zimbabwe calls upon developed countries to meet their obligations under the convention, by providing means of implementation including new and additional finance, technology transfer and capacity building in order for developing countries to adequately adapt to climate change impacts. Progress on long term finance is critical and developed countries must guarantee that scaled up climate financing will be available for the period 2013 to 2020.

A shared vision under the AWG – LCA should be based on the ultimate objective of the convention and take into account its principles. It should ensure a science based global peaking of emissions by 2015, a global goal for emissions reduction by eighty-five percent of 1990 levels by 2050, based on equitable access to sustainable development and global temperature rise below 2° centigrade.

In addition, it is important to successfully conclude the work of the LCA, and find appropriate space for residual issues to be discussed under the Conference of Parties, the Subsidiary bodies and the newly established institutions.

Mr President,

Zimbabwe takes note of the progress that has been made under the AWG on the Durban Platform. We however would like to see a clear work programme for the year 2013 which allows negotiations to proceed on the two workstreams approach. It is important that the future legal outcome be based on the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. It must also recognize the historical responsibilities of Annex 1 Parties. In addition, it is critical that the new agreement takes into account adaptation challenges including the means of implementation for vulnerable developing countries.

Mr President,

As Parties move forward with negotiations for a future climate change agreement, Zimbabwe categorically rejects attempts by developed countries to shift responsibilities of addressing climate change and its adverse effects on developing countries. We urge Annex 1 Parties to show leadership and implement their obligations as we tackle this global challenge.

It is clear that there is an urgent need for building the resilience of countries to natural disasters and early warning systems to prevent and reduce the adverse impacts of climate change. In order to enable us as developing countries to pursue sustainable development and to address the challenges posed by climate change, the developed countries should provide adequate, new and additional financing for adaptation.

Mr President,

In conclusion, a successful outcome from Doha will contribute to the momentum to tackle climate change which Parties have made over the years including last year, in Durban. The Zimbabwean delegation is willing to work with you and other Parties to achieve a successful balanced outcome at this Conference.

I thank you all
