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***Statement of  
H.E The President of the Republic  
ISMAÏL OMAR GUELLEH***

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***UN Climate Change Conference  
DOHA 2012***

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***Praise with God that peace and  
blessing are on the Prophet, his  
Family and his Companions,***

**Mister President,**

**Excellencies, Heads of States and  
Governments,**

**The Secretary-General of the  
United Nations,**

**Honorable Ministers and Heads of  
Delegation,**

**The Executive Secretary of the  
Convention United Nations  
Framework on Climate Change,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am very pleased to attend this conference on climate Change which its venue is timely and have been greatly anticipated.

Allow me, first and foremost, to convey my gratitude as well as the appreciation of my delegation, to the Government and the People of Qatar for the warm welcome we have received since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha.

My thanks also go to the organization of the United Nations and the Convention Secretariat for the excellent organization and the quality of the documents at our disposal.

**Mister President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

First of all, I would like to fully endorse the statements made successively by HE Desalegn, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on behalf of the African Group, by H.E the Vice President of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and finally by H.E the Prime Minister of Burundi on behalf of the Least Developed Countries.

**Mister President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Republic of Djibouti, which is located on the east coast of Africa, is particularly vulnerable to climate change because of its geographical position. Djibouti, whose rainfall does not exceed 150 mm per year, is already a victim of drought stress.

Similarly, recurrent droughts have exacerbated poverty in rural areas; and in contradiction, that rare rainfall often causes devastating floods that damage the infrastructure and harm or displace people. As the majority of the population lives in coastal areas, rising sea levels remain a serious threat to infrastructure, housing, tourism and fishing; and thus jeopardize the development that we have strived to achieve.

In order to contribute to the international community's effort in the fight against global warming, the Republic of Djibouti has ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol of 1995 and 2001.

And to fulfill our obligations to this agreement, we have just finished our second national survey on climate change. This study showed that our country contributes marginally to the

emission of greenhouse gas, but is at the same time, particularly vulnerable to its destructive effects.

In addition, we have prepared the National Program for adaptation to climate change. In the framework of the implementation of such a program we are executing several projects such as the restoration of the mangrove forest in Khor Angar or agricultural developments in the area of Bara.

Other projects are being prepared and will be implemented in the coming years to increase the resilience of our rural communities to climate change.

Furthermore, although Djibouti's greenhouse gas emission is quite low, in comparison to other developing countries; we have significantly reduced our emissions since the implementation of the electrical interconnection with Ethiopia. Similarly, we hope, in the next few

years, to produce all of our electricity from clean energy through the development of our geothermal resources.

**Mister President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

We all know that the damage done to mankind today is manmade. It is only fair that we eradicate this threat. The developed nations that caused much of the damage to our climate over the last century do have the responsibility to take the lead. The most important issue, however, is that we work together and not allow the old divisions that have characterized the climate debate for so many years, to block our progress.

It is in that spirit that my country is sparing no effort in order to make a modest contribution to the fight against climate change.

However, budgetary constraints and the need to eradicate poverty do not allow us to mobilize significant funding to implement actions to mitigate or adapt to climate change.

That is why, we urge developed countries to make available appropriate funding to implement climate change adaptation programs for the Least Developed Countries, the Small Island Developing States and African countries. Those populations have a very low capacity to adapt to climate change and, hence, are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The implementation of these programs requires the mobilization of, additional and permanent public funding under the Adaptation Fund and the Fund for Least Developed Countries.

We also ask that the Green Climate Fund be operational by providing the necessary funding.

**Mister President,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is essential that the conclusion of the agreement on climate change be based on the fundamental principles of our convention.

I would like, here, to emphasize the importance of achieving an ambitious and equitable Doha agreement for the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change.

My delegation, in this regard, is strongly committed to the second phase of the Kyoto Protocol, which is the only legally binding instrument in the field of climate change.



For my country and my people, climate change is all too real and we hope today that we can achieve our goal and take action to prevent further destruction and devastation.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**