

Each of you speaks on behalf of your country's population. You all know what that weight of responsibility feels like.

I am speaking for more than half the world's population.

We are the silent majority. You've given us a seat in this hall, but our interests are not on the table.

What does it take to get a stake in this game? Lobbyists? Corporate influence? Money?

You have been negotiating all of my life. In that time, you've failed to meet pledges, you've missed targets, and you've broken promises.

But you've heard this all before.

We're in Africa, home to communities on the frontline of climate change. Home to the worst famine in generations, threatening the livelihoods of 13 million people.

The world's poorest countries need funding for adaptation NOW. Those in the Horn of Africa, and those in the nearby township of KwaMashu, needed it yesterday.

But as 2012 dawns, our Green Climate Fund remains empty.

The International Energy Agency tells us that we have 5 years until the window to avoid irreversible climate change closes. Now we hear that you'll postpone taking renewed action until 2020.

The science tells us that we have 5 years, MAXIMUM. You're saying: give us 10.

*The* most stark betrayal of your generation's responsibility to ours is that you call this AMBITION.

We have witnessed an astonishing lack of courage from many in this room. You've spent your time approving things you agreed on a year ago. Now is *not* the time for incremental action.

In the long-run, these will be seen as the defining moments of an era in which narrow self-interest prevailed over science, reason, and common compassion.

There is *real* ambition in this room but it's been dismissed as radical, deemed not politically possible. Long-term thinking is not radical. What's radical is to completely alter the planet's climate, to betray the future of my generation, and to condemn millions to death by climate change.

What's *radical* is to write off the fact that change *is* within our reach.

2011 was the year in which the silent majority found their voice. 2011 was the year when the bottom shook the top. 2011 was the year when the radical became reality.

The principles of common but differentiated responsibility and historical responsibility are NOT up for debate. Respect the foundational principles of this Convention. Respect the integral values of humanity. Respect the future of your descendants.

Nelson Mandela said "it always seems impossible, until it's done".

So, distinguished delegates and governments around the world - get it done.