

**Twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) and
the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the
meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 11)**

Paris, 8 December 2015

Address at the high-level segment by

H.E. Dr. Patrick I. Gomes,

**Secretary General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of
States**

Honourable Ministers,

Executive Secretary Christina Figueres,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

From the outset, let me congratulate the Government and People of France for the excellent organisation of the conference and warm hospitality afforded to my Delegation,

I would also like to express my sincere condolences to the People of France for the recent terror attacks committed in Paris,

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

It is my great honour to address you on behalf of the 79 Member States of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group consisting of 48 developing Countries in Africa, 16 in the Caribbean and 15 in the Pacific region.

The ACP Group was established 40 years ago by the Georgetown Agreement, in June 1975, with the objectives of poverty eradication, promotion of sustainable development, the equitable integration into the global economy, and ensuring access to basic needs.

ACP Countries are particularly vulnerable to the devastating and dislocating consequences of climate change. The adverse impacts of

climate change pose immediate and long-term significant risks to not only poverty eradication and sustainable development efforts, but to the very survival of our ACP Countries.

For the ACP Group, the Paris Agreement must be legally binding, inclusive, fair, ambitious, durable and dynamic. It must establish a mechanism for a periodic review every five years, a robust transparency and accountability system and deliver strong commitments by all countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to ensure global temperatures stay well below 1.5°C relative to pre-industrial levels.

The Paris Agreement must ensure support for adaptation and mitigation actions, REDD-plus and the timely implementation of intended nationally determined contributions.

Adequate, predictable, equitable and sustainable climate finance is particularly important for the ACP Group and indeed for a successful outcome of Paris. Equally important to the Paris Agreement, is the need to ensure technology development and transfer, capacity building as well as ensuring transparency of action and support.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

The ACP Group looks forward to collaborate with Partners in supporting the implementation of the Paris outcomes. In this regard, the Intra-ACP Strategy for the 11th European Development Fund (11th EDF), between the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat, committed € 475 million to support climate change, resilience building and the environment up to 2020. These are substantial resources we intend to utilise so that they serve to attain a greener planet and sustainable livelihoods of our member States.

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group (ACP Group) looks forward to collaboration with like minded Organisations and Groups in supporting the implementation of the outcomes of this Paris Conference.

I thank you very much.