

Statement of Hon. Deng Deng Hoc Yai, Minister of Environment and Personal Representative of the President of the Republic of South Sudan, at the High-Level Segment of the UN Climate Change Conference, Paris, France, 8th December 2015

Mr President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of my President, the government and the people of South Sudan, I want to express our condolences to the families of the victims of the savage terror attacks. We stand in solidarity with France.

Mr President, climate change is one of the gravest challenges facing Africa and the world today. The Paris Agreement can only be a real deal and fit for purpose if it meets five bottom-line expectations of the Parties:

1. The Agreement should necessarily be universal, gender-sensitive and legally binding.
2. As a legal instrument for implementation of the Convention, the Agreement should be in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular the principles of equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective national capabilities.
3. The Agreement should demonstrate our collective mitigation ambition. In accordance with the science, the Agreement should keep the global average temperatures well below 1.5 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels. This will ensure that Planet Earth is on the way to recovery. Any less ambitious target will only worsen the situation in developing countries causing more poverty, more conflicts, more food insecurity, more hunger, more water scarcity, more job losses, more youth unemployment, more migration, more destruction of lives and livelihoods and more misery.
4. The Agreement should provide for a global goal for adaptation that enhances the implementation of adaptation obligations, including support for developing countries. The Agreement should also provide for parity between mitigation and adaptation.
5. The Agreement should provide for an enhanced means of implementation to ensure that the developed countries-
 - (a) Provide climate finance, which is additional, predictable and sustainable, to the developing countries;
 - (b) Support training and capacity building for the benefit of the developing countries;
 - (c) Support technology transfer to the developing countries; and
 - (d) Support the International Mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.

Mr President, let us rise to the challenge. Let us tackle climate change - HERE and NOW. Let us leave our children and the next generations NOTHING – zero carbon dioxide emissions, zero poverty, and zero biodiversity loss! Thank you.