

**Democratic Republic of Congo on Behalf of the Coalition for
Rainforest Nations**

Joint COP, CMP, CMA, SBSTA, SBI and APA opening plenary

STATEMENT

Katowice, 2 December 2018

Mister President,
Madame Executive Secretary,
Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation,
Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice,
Charis of the ad-hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement,

The Democratic Republic of Congo has the honour to speak on behalf of the 52 countries of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations.

Mr President, at the outset we support the statement made by the distinguished delegate from Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Last October, the IPCC special report reiterated the call for urgent and immediate global action to limit the warming of our planet to 1.5 degree. We are gathered here in Poland to take another fundamental step in the fight against climate change. We are determined to make the Paris Agreement work and get to action urgently.

To this aim, all workstreams of the Paris Agreement rulebook must be finalized expeditiously so that Parties can focus on implementation and finally get to work. All different pieces open in the various subsidiary bodies must come together and the Paris Agreement become operative through a set of ambitious and forward-looking rules.

Mr President, science also tells us that natural solutions can significantly reduce global warming. Restoring our lands and wetlands and changing the management of our forests could have a much bigger impact in reducing global warming than previously imagined. We still remember Warsaw 2013, a key milestone in the successful journey of REDD+,

now fully part of the Paris Agreement. COP24 must honour the REDD+ Warsaw Framework and the Paris Agreement rules be inspired and fully consistent with this big achievement.

A robust accounting system ensuring the highest environmental integrity must build the new climate change regime. All Parties and non-Parties, and particularly those in the private sector, shall be encouraged to continue to play a key role in fighting climate change and increase their ambition and commitments in their forestry related climate actions.

Those actors must be fully embedded in the new climate regime, and their actions consistent with all UNFCCC decisions and methodologies and IPCC guidance.

Mr President, as REDD+ has revealed, the NAZCA must be retired, reformed or replaced as it is not consistent with the Paris Agreement or compliant with its transparency requirements.

Mr President, the implementation of the Paris Agreement should build on existing successful stories such as the REDD+ mechanism under Article 5. Clearly, the escalation of extreme weather events in all regions of the world shows that urgent action is necessary and tropical forests must play a key role now more than ever.

Scaled up and stable support by both the public and private sector finance, including through the mechanisms under Article 6, should be provided to rainforest nations.

Finally Mr. President, our Coalition is ready, more than ever, to support you and work with you and all Parties, with the view to scale up ambition and strengthen the new climate regime so that we can finally solve the problem of climate change.

Thank you Mr President.