REMARKS BY H.E. THE RT. HONOURABLE RUSSELL M. DLAMINI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI,

AT THE 2026 CLIMATE CHANGE WORLD LEADERS SUMMIT ANTALYA, TÜRKİYE | 11 NOVEMBER 2026

United Nations Secretary-General, His Excellency António Guterres;
President of COP31, Honourable Murat Kurum;
President of COP31 Negotiations, Honourable Chris Bowen;
Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;
Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, Mr. Simon Stiell;
Honourable Ministers;
Distinguished Delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to address this Summit on behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Eswatini. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Türkiye for their gracious hospitality and stewardship of this gathering.

Excellencies,

The consequences of climate change are measured in lives lost, livelihoods imperilled and development gains undone. Extreme heat, destructive storms, floods and prolonged droughts are testing the resilience of nations and placing an intolerable burden upon the most vulnerable.

In Southern Africa, these pressures are compounded by the threat of El Niño-related drought. In Eswatini, more than one in five people could face acute food insecurity between October 2026 and March 2027. Behind this projection are families whose welfare, dignity and prospects depend upon the action we take. Our responsibility is immediate; its fulfilment cannot be deferred.

Excellencies,

Developing countries have demonstrated their resolve to act. Yet their ability to fulfil their commitments remains constrained by inadequate finance, limited access to technology and insufficient institutional capacity.

Eswatini welcomes the COP29 climate finance agreement, including the goal of mobilising at least US$300 billion annually for developing countries by 2035, alongside the broader ambition of scaling up climate finance to US$1.3 trillion annually.

The worth of these commitments will be determined by their fulfilment. Finance must be accessible, predictable and timely, with a strong emphasis on grants, particularly for adaptation. Simpler procedures, stronger direct access and effective technical assistance are essential.

Eswatini is pursuing the accreditation of two national institutions to bring these resources within closer reach of our development priorities.

Climate finance is an obligation grounded in justice, equity and shared responsibility. Countries bearing the gravest consequences must have the means to protect their people and safeguard their development.

Excellencies,

Eswatini's third-generation Nationally Determined Contribution and draft National Adaptation Plan set a clear course for national action. Our priorities encompass climate-smart agriculture, water security, ecosystem restoration, renewable energy and resilient infrastructure.

We are advancing water harvesting, efficient irrigation, watershed protection and sustainable land management, aligned with our updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Resilient building standards, green jobs and skills development are integral to this endeavour.

These ambitions require sustained investment. We therefore urge our partners to honour their adaptation finance commitments, strengthen early warning systems and disaster preparedness, and adequately resource the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage.

Resilience must be embedded in national development planning, enabling communities to anticipate hazards, withstand their impact and recover with dignity.

Excellencies,

Building resilience also requires the widest possible exchange of knowledge and experience. Taiwan and Japan offer valuable lessons in resilient infrastructure, early warning systems and disaster preparedness.

Yet how can the world fully benefit from Taiwan's expertise while its participation in relevant international platforms remains constrained? Many of us assembled here rely upon technology developed or manufactured in Taiwan. Its expertise should likewise be available to our common endeavour to protect lives and livelihoods.

Climate change recognises no political boundaries. Our cooperation must rise to the same universal challenge. Eswatini therefore reaffirms its support for the meaningful participation of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in relevant international climate processes.

Excellencies,

Equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities must remain the foundation of our collective response. Developed countries must lead in reducing emissions and providing support, while enabling developing nations to meet their legitimate development needs.

Climate action must strengthen the struggle against poverty, expand opportunity and safeguard the inheritance of generations yet unborn.

The true measure of this Summit will be found in the security of our communities: in reliable water supplies, productive fields, resilient infrastructure and lives safeguarded from disaster.

Let Antalya mark a renewed resolve to honour our commitments, place resources within reach of those who need them, and translate international solidarity into lasting protection for our people.

Eswatini stands ready to play its part.

I thank you.