



STATEMENT BY H.E. PROF. NTOI RAPAPA

MINISTER OF ENERGY AND METEOROLOGY

**AT THE TWENTY FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES (COP25) TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, THE FIFTEENTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL
(CMP15) AND THE SECOND SESSION OF THE PARIS
AGREEMENT (CMA2)**

MADRID, SPAIN

2ND TO 13TH DECEMBER, 2019

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour to congratulate Her Excellency Ms. Carolina Schmidt, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Chile, on her election as the President of COP 25, the CMP15, and 2nd CMA. I am confident that as we are celebrating 25 years of multilateral action under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process she will lead the COP process in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, including facilitating efforts to advance the work programme of the Paris Agreement in a balanced, fair and rule-based manner. We note with concern that collectively our actions are not adequate to address the challenge of climate change and its impacts. I therefore call upon coherence in addressing all elements under the Paris Agreement. To this end, I confirm my Country's full cooperation and commitment in reaching agreed outcomes that will lead to full implementation of Paris Agreement under her leadership.

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

We would like to note with concern the findings of the international scientific community, including the recent three reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); Report on a 1.5°C temperature increase, Climate Change Land Report as well as the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate,

which highlight the damaging impacts of climate change on agriculture and important biospheres critical to our livelihoods and food security, thus confirming the urgent need for rapid reductions in global emissions to avoid increased loss and damage and scaled up support to vulnerable countries like Lesotho so that we can adapt and build resilience.

Lesotho has in recent years experienced climate-related negative impacts which included prolonged droughts, receding dam levels, drying rivers and wetlands, just to name a few. These adverse impacts have led to large economic losses, adversely impacting on food security.

We take cognizance of the Special Report on 1.5°C which indicates that limiting warming to 1.5°C remains feasible and will have considerable sustainable development benefits for Least Developed Countries and other developing countries compared to warming of 2°C. However, the current average global temperature levels are already causing significant negative impacts in our countries. We therefore call upon COP25 to keep momentum building towards more ambitious climate action and achievements of the Paris Agreement.

We would like to welcome the initiatives of the United Nations Secretary-General on climate change and convening global Leaders calling them to enhance ambition and accelerate actions in order to come up with concrete and realistic plans to enhance their Nationally

Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020, in line with reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45 per cent by 2030, and to net zero emissions by 2050 in an effort of getting onto a 1.5°C pathway. It is our sincere believe that this call has generated much needed political momentum and awareness although much more is required to ensure that the legacy of the Summit translates into more ambitious NDCs, stronger policies and climate action over the next decade.

Lesotho has recently developed climate change policy aimed at enabling it to manage, promote and implement climate change interventions. Our 5-year national climate change strategy outlines the need for Lesotho to radically transform its economy in a climate resilient and sustainable manner. There are initiatives to develop climate change bill which will further provide guidance on the implementation of climate change initiatives in the country. We therefore call upon the interested Parties to support us in the implementation of this policy.

We welcome the issue of the Adaptation Fund to serve the Paris Agreement. More funding will thus be available to tackle adaptation in the developing countries. We therefore urge the developed country Parties to offer more financial resources and provide a clear pathway to the projected US\$100 billion finance that they agreed to provide by 2020. We also encourage simplified procedures for direct access to

funding, to enable countries with little capacities such as Lesotho, to easily access these funds. However, there is need for further elaboration of adaptation planning and implementation under the Paris Agreement to address extreme meteorological events, and we call upon Parties to the UNFCCC to continue the elaboration of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, including the goal of adaptation, adaptation needs and associated costs. We note with great concern the difficulty that our countries face in accessing finance to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans. We hope the modalities in accessing funds under the GCF for adaptation can be simplified for the most vulnerable countries taking into consideration the technical challenges they face.

We acknowledge the progress made in respect to adaptation. We therefore would like to see a scaled up adaptation finance. We urge the developed countries to provide full support to the developing countries for the formulation, updating and implementation of Adaptation Communications, as a component of NDCs, which will take into account information on the developing countries' needs and associated costs, including support needed to implement adaptation action.

We therefore urge all developed countries and international partners to provide finance, technology transfer and capacity-building support to our countries in implementing our NDCs, low GHG emissions

development strategies, gender action plans, and national climate change policies, measures and strategies.

We call upon adoption of clear rules at this meeting to ensure that NDCs follow one common time frame, which is essential to avoid locking in low ambition and enhance the comparability of NDC targets and the predictability of the NDC cycle. We call upon the operationalization the transparency framework under the Paris Agreement (Article 13) in a manner that leads to a balanced outcome between the transparency of action and support including capacity building so that developing countries can meet the requirements of reporting under the Paris Agreement.

We further call for the full operationalization of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts including provisions of Article 8 and the support to enable our countries to deal with losses and damages associated with climate change impacts. Therefore we call upon Review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (WIM) at this meeting for delivering a strengthened, efficient, action-oriented Mechanism that will better address loss and damage in line with the priorities and needs identified by developing countries

Finally, Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Paris was a landmark in our common pursuit of a safe and sustainable world. We do understand that a lot still has to be done in the coming years and decades, in order to implement and accomplish the full potential of the Paris Agreement. It is our collective responsibility to put the world on a path towards a climate-resilient sustainable future, without compromising the survival of nations.

I thank you.