



STATEMENT BY NATHANIEL T. BLAMA, SR
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AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF COP 25

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Mr. President

Excellencies

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I congratulate you and the Government of Chile on your election as President of COP 25. I also wish to thank the Government and People of Spain for the hospitality extended to my delegation.

Under Chilean leadership we envisage that the outstanding issues from the “rulebook” on the implementation of the Paris Agreement will be concluded.

Liberia wishes to register its support of the statements made by Palestine on behalf of the G77 and China, by Egypt for the African Group, as well as Bhutan on behalf of the Least Developed Countries, and the Maldives on behalf of SIDS.

Excellencies, this COP25 follows a year of increased activism and public concern about the impending climate crisis. We have seen increased action by the youth across the world to bring attention to the urgency required in ensuring that climate change is halted and that those who will face the worst impacts from it are supported. We have also, simultaneously, seen an increase in global emissions. The Liberian youth is striving to ensure their voice is heard globally, and we encourage increasing participation through initiatives like the Action for Climate Empowerment, which can provide a framework for their voice.

Excellences, may I inform you that my country continues to experience climate hazards and the consequences of the climate crisis. Examples such as coastal erosion, flooding, frequent tropical storms, disruption of the agricultural system, and the outbreak of water vector borne diseases come to mind. These crises serve to undermine my government’s national development plan (the *Pro Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development*). Climate change is compounding our existing socio-economic challenges – it has not spared the subsistence farming communities or urbanized coastal populations.

And yet, Excellencies, Liberia is raising ambition. The revision of our Nationally Determined Contribution this coming year provides the opportunity to pursue both adaptation and mitigation actions through nature-based solutions. Sustainably managing land resources can help address climate change. However, without adequate investment, our forest stocks, our mangroves, and our biodiversity are threatened by the very need for subsistence and livelihoods, which can be environmentally intensive.

On transparency, we are strengthening our in-house capacity to track progress on national commitments made under the Paris Agreement through the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency. This includes improved understanding of our emissions levels and improved cross-sectoral coordination to implement meaningful environmental protection.

Excellencies, we have been able to engage in such capacity building through the provision of finance. The roles of the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund are therefore keenly observed. In fact, Liberia will be playing host to the Informal Board Meeting of the Green Climate Fund in February 2020 and hopes that this will be an opportunity for the Board to understand the real and urgent needs of Least Developed Countries for long term predictable financing to combat climate change.

The coming into force of the implementation of the Paris Agreement in 2020 will require a global effort of working together to reverse the impacts of climate change – the time for action is now.

We want to reaffirm our commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement and encourage global emissions reductions for the sake of all our futures.

I Thank You All.