

**COP 27 National Statement of Somalia delivered by**

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**Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**

**Excellencies Heads of States and Governments, Distinguished delegates, ladies, and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour and privilege to deliver the national statement of my country, Somalia, at this crucial COP27<sup>th</sup> session in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. I thank Egypt and President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, as well as all other international partners, for bringing us all together to discuss what can only be described as the greatest challenge facing our world today.

All the available scientific evidence across the world clearly shows that temperatures and sea levels are rising, droughts and floods are increasing, food security is weak and climate induced conflict over resources like water and livestock pasture are common, especially, in sub-Saharan Africa which is dealing with one of the worst droughts in modern history.

The presence of so many leaders in this meeting today gives me confidence that not only is the issue of climate change being taken seriously internationally but that, during COP27, genuine plans and strategies will be negotiated, agreed, and implemented quickly to ensure we mitigate and adapt to its costly destructive effects across the world.

In 2022, over 800 million people, majority of them from Africa are food insecure. In Somalia, over 7 million people cannot meet their basic food needs and require urgent humanitarian assistance. We need to ask ourselves why are we here after 26 years? The answer is one and it is climate change and conflict!!

What is evident is that there is no equity or fairness in global climate burden sharing because the nations who produce the least greenhouse gas emissions like Somalia, pay the highest price twice. Firstly, their citizens do not benefit from the developed nations industrialisation and their own nations usually have minimal industrial output or capacity, and secondly, they seldom have the fiscal space or technology and expertise to respond to the effects of the changing climate which directly hampers their development aspirations and citizens' health and wellbeing.

In Somalia, we are most vulnerable to climate change. Climate change is a political, security and economic challenge for us and we are taking it very seriously. In this regard, we have dedicated an entire new Ministry and launched a new Somalia Green Initiative to address this matter head on.

Today, Somalia is facing a humanitarian crisis which we are desperately trying to respond to because of recurrent drought. We have also had severe floods which have destroyed key infrastructure, prime agricultural land as well as the livelihoods of entire communities. Today's global food and energy insecurity is disproportionately affecting Somalia because of the impact of climate change and our people's inability to grow their own crops because of the ongoing drought. As a direct consequence, urbanisation and all its environmental impacts are also on the rise. This is not sustainable or acceptable.

Climate mitigation and adaptation strategies and plans need to be rapidly implemented in Somalia to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of our most vulnerable citizens. However, this requires real resources including accessible grant-based financing and investments in climate resilience in key areas including water management, infrastructure, and renewable energy. This is vital because many of the developing nations, and least developed nations like Somalia, are still struggling with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and national debt sustainability issues and they must not be left behind. Furthermore, existing national, regional, and international climate early warning systems are only useful where we can finance early effective action to mitigate and adapt quickly.

In Somalia, we have one of the longest coasts in the world, vast arable land, and we are striving to build an economically stable future which both benefits from our strategic location and enormous natural resource potential including the blue economy. However, we must take urgent action today to work with all our international partners to ensure we make the climate adaptation and mitigation investments that will make this a reality tomorrow.

In this age of global interconnectivity and interdependence, we must not think in silos or developed versus developing nations because the looming existential climate disaster does not care for these distinctions. Climate Change is complex, and it is not going to magically disappear. In this regard, we must respond to this single greatest challenge to humanity

today, together and on the firm basis of solidarity, multilateralism, and international cooperation.

**I thank you all.**