



STATEMENT

BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZIMBABWE**

HIS EXCELLENCY, DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA,

AT THE

**WORLD LEADERS SUMMIT DURING THE 26th
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES
(COP26):**

1-2 NOVEMBER 2021

Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II;

The Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom;

Your Excellency Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations;

Majesties and Excellencies,

I wish to commend the Government and People of the United Kingdom for hosting COP26 and for extending an invitation to Zimbabwe to participate. I also congratulate Your Excellency, Mr. Alok Sharma, on your election as the COP26 President.

Zimbabwe has not been spared from climate change challenges which have led to an increasing frequency of severe droughts and cyclone induced floods. These, coupled with the economic sanctions imposed on us and the COVID-19 pandemic have had negative impacts on the lives and livelihoods of the people of my country.

The importance of solidarity and cooperation to tackling global challenges, cannot be over emphasized. It is most unfortunate that the impact of Climate Change is disproportionately borne by the vulnerable communities, which have contributed the least to the current stock of atmospheric carbon.

Vulnerable countries must therefore be capacitated to mitigate, adapt and build resilience to climate change. The expectation is that major emitters will scale up mitigation action and show greater interest in adaptation. Decisions at this COP26 should strengthen the implementation of current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

It is further imperative that the set emission reduction targets are anchored on supporting, financing and equipping countries to gradually and sustainably migrate from fossil to renewable energy.

Notwithstanding that as a country we are “a net sink”; I am pleased to highlight that Zimbabwe has revised its Nationally Determined Contributions and committed to a conditional 40% per capita greenhouse gas emissions reduction target, by 2030. Comprehensive strategies are also being implemented towards mainstreaming climate change adaptation and resilience across all sectors of our economy. The removal of the illegal sanctions imposed on my country, will undoubtedly enhance the timely achievement of our commitments.

“Zimbabwe is Open for Business” and my Government stands ready to welcome and facilitate investments from across the world towards greening our economy and achieving sustainable development, which leaves no one and no place behind.

Mr President; The demonstration of sincerity and good faith by members will help restore confidence in the new commitments made at this Summit.

Consensus on a clear roadmap for the new finance goal must be reached, while carbon trading needs to go beyond off-setting emissions, to more practical action on climate change mitigation.

Finally, let us all show bold and decisive leadership in tackling this weighty responsibility before us. Zimbabwe stands ready to collaborate with all countries and partners within the comity of nations to achieve our noble objectives.

I thank you.