



SOMALI FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference (COP19) and the 9th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 9)

Statement at the High-Level Segment

By

Mr. Faisal Said Mussa

Head of the Somali Delegation

Mr. President,
Honorable Ministers,
Heads of Delegations,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman

Good afternoon

Mr. President

On behalf of my Government let me take this opportunity to thank the Government of Poland for hosting COP19. I would also like to convey on behalf of my delegation our gratitude to the people of Warsaw for the warm reception.

Mr. President

On the onset, let me express my deep sympathy to the Government and people of the Philippines during these difficult times as we are also witnessing devastating effects of the climate change.

Mr President
Excellencies,

As we are gathered in this 19th session of the Conference of the Parties here in Warsaw, a powerful cyclone hit the Puntland region in the North-East of Somalia and created a state of havoc with over 300 persons feared dead. Entire villages, homes, buildings and boats destroyed. More than 50 000 families displaced. Livelihood of tens of thousands of people vanished and the main road which is the life line between the main cities cut off instigating complete logistical problems for the relief efforts.

Mr. President
Excellencies,

In September this year, one of the two main rivers overflowed its banks in the Middle Shabelle Region caused huge displacement and loss of human lives, livestock, crops and natural habitats. The Somali federal Government has declared both these regions disaster areas.

Regrettably, my country and my people are not getting the attention they deserved from the international media. Therefore, on behalf of Somali government, let me use this occasion to appeal from the international community, UN agencies and international organizations to assist those in a dire need. We thank those countries that already provided aid.

Mr. President
Excellencies,

Somalia is slowly but steadily recovering from civil war and political unrest that have ravaged the country since 1991. Above this political distress, the increasingly speeding climate change is still triggering loss of agro-biodiversity, land degradation and desertification.

For more than twenty years, my country is facing daunting challenge of overexploitation of marine resources and deforestation. The root cause of deforestation is export of charcoal which instigating alarming situation to the environment. The number one factor that contributes the charcoal production is the high demand for its export which keeps the trade lucrative and hard to control.

My government has taken the necessary measures to prevent the charcoal export and we welcome the Security Council resolution (2036) on charcoal export from Somalia. To achieve maximum result, however, we need the cooperation of parties particularly those

countries that charcoal use is not a necessity but a luxury. We therefore, urge them to take appropriate steps to prevent charcoal import from Somalia.

Our marine resources is also facing threatening challenges due to the lack of surveillance which rendered the country to illegal fishing that are using destructive fishing methods. Toxic waste dumping in our seawaters has also led to very serious environmental disasters including marine pollution that wiped out various marine species. Unfortunately, the overexploitation of our marine resources continues in this very day.

Mr. President
Excellencies,

Climate change is also a development challenge that affects women a much greater degree in LDC countries and Somalia is not exempted. Majority of people living in poverty are women and they bear the brunt of the impacts imposed by climate change. Women in rural areas are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood and the change of climate restrains securing these resources.

Similarly, many young people in Somalia and other African countries are also facing immense challenges in their everyday lives because of the climate change's adverse effects on their livelihoods. They are trying to migrate to Europe for a better and decent life. It is a heart-breaking that many of them never reach their destination.

Mr. President
Excellencies,

In October alone, hundreds of African migrants died in the Mediterranean Sea, after the boat they were boarding capsized. They were trying to escape from poverty and hopelessness but they ended up undignified death. This is the destiny for many African youth nowadays. Either way it is a choice between the devil and the deep blue sea.

Mr. President
Excellencies,

My country is committed to be a full and active partner in global efforts to reduce greenhouse gases. Given that the Federal Government of Somalia was sworn in 2012, new programs, plans and policies are under development. The intrinsic nature surrounding issues of climate change, deforestation, desertification and biodiversity that are all relevant in Somalia means that potential synergies exist between the selected climate change adaptation activities identified in the NAPA, and the conventions to which Somalia is a signatory.

Soon after his inauguration, the President of Somalia H.E Hassan Sheikh Mohamud released a document entitled the '**Six Pillar Policy**' outlining the key areas that will help in bringing stabilization and development in Somalia under the new government. The policy conveys three specific intentions related to the environment, which are as follows:

- Enact laws that preserve and protect the environment;
- Incorporate environmental education in the formal and informal education systems in the country;
- Rectify the environmental damage of the past such as deforestation and cleaning of Somali seawaters.

Mr. President
Excellencies,

Without external funding, however, my country will not be able to mobilise the large resources needed for technological change, preventing deforestation, replacing energy sources and improving energy efficiency. For this reason, finance is crucial for my country and I encourage developed countries to commit and provide extra funds in the areas of loss and damage, adaptation, mitigation, capacity building and technology transfer.

Mr. President

Allow me to conclude my statement that if our desire is to confront the climate change, we need our actions to reflect our words. Although we support the statement made by the LCD, African Group and the group of 77 and China, we urge all parties to overcome their differences and coming together in the interests of our planet and that of next generations. Efforts should be also made to encourage regions to join efforts, share knowledge and work together for a better environment.

Thank you!!!!