

21st CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

**STATEMENT PRESENTED BY H.E. DANIEL ORTEGA PACHECO,
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT OF ECUADOR ON BEHALF OF THE
COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES**

(version to be delivered)

Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of Ecuador, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American – CELAC-, I have the honor to present this statement representing the 33 countries that integrate the Community of CELAC, while reaffirming the objective to strengthen it as a forum for dialogue and political agreement on issues of international and regional agenda, including climate change.

In this regard, at the "III Summit of CELAC", the Heads of State and Government of the region adopted several mandates on climate change, including a Special Declaration (6) on this matter and other specific mandates with a view to conform a regional position in this matter, particularly in view of the COP21 in Paris.

Accordingly, I have the honor to inform this plenary, that after several months of meetings and thanks to the constructive participation of all Member States, it has been possible to identify the following common elements towards COP21, which do reflect national priorities and circumstances towards COP 21, while respecting their respective negotiating positions.

The full text of common elements will be delivered to the Secretariat for its diffusion and distribution, regardless of which, I will emphasize the substantial principal elements agreed at the level of CELAC.

Mr. President,

The member countries of CELAC recognize climate change as a persistent crisis, which also represents one of the major world problems and compromises our capacities to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, as a result of the negative effects of extreme meteorological phenomena and slow-onset events due to climate change, such as hurricanes, floods, desertification, droughts, receding glaciers, sea level rising, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the phenomena of "El Niño" and "La Niña", among others, that threaten the rich biodiversity and natural resources upon which many of our economies depend and further threaten food security as well as the survival of our population in harmony with nature.

We emphasize the need for an effective, appropriate and fair international response to this global problem through the elaboration of a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed conclusion with legal force, under the UNFCCC, that is legally binding and applicable to all Parties, to achieve its objective as set in its article 2, to allow an adequate adaptation and to hold the increase in global average temperature below 1.5°-2° degrees Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels, through the full implementation of the principles and provisions of the Convention, including in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and equity. We agree that differentiation should be applied to all elements of the agreement, with a practical sense for its adequate implementation in each case accordingly.

We reaffirm that the agreement to be adopted at the COP21, should address urgently the needs and special circumstances derived from the particular vulnerabilities of all our countries facing climate change, including particularly the Small Island Developing States – SIDS, as well as the countries of the central-american isthmus and the countries that suffer the effects of “El Niño” and “La Niña” phenomena, recognizing the urgent needs and the special circumstances of developing countries, and taking into account the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Mr. President,

We further reaffirm that the results of COP21 should take into account the adverse impacts of climate change on social groups such as the poorest communities of our societies, indigenous peoples, migrants, persons with disabilities, women, children and the elderly.

We affirm that adaptation is a priority for all the region, and in that sense we demand that it is addressed in an urgent and balanced manner and with political parity with regard to mitigation, recognizing the efforts of our countries to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and strengthening the provision of finance, technology transfer and capacity building to increase our adaptation actions. In that sense, we support a balance in financing for adaptation and mitigation over time and we highlight the importance of the continuity of the Adaptation Fund beyond 2020.

We demand that the issue of loss and damage is included in the Paris Agreement, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, without prejudice to the current work of the International Warsaw Mechanism of Loss and Damage and ensuring that this mechanism and other relevant institutions which may developed under the Convention, have permanence in time to address loss and damage associated with climate change and the needs of developing countries in our region.

We emphasize that the ambitious voluntary mitigation and adaptation actions of our countries must be recognized as a contribution to the global effort. We affirm our determination to maintain and enhance these actions and policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including through the continuous and enhanced provision by developed countries of necessary means of

implementation, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

We urge the developed countries to lead the reduction of emissions through targets that are ambitious, absolute and economy-wide and in line with the long-term temperature goal of 1.5 – 2 degree Celsius relative to pre-industrial levels; and we recognize the importance for developing countries to expand over time their mitigation and adaptation actions in the context of sustainable development and with the appropriate support. In that framework, we urge developed countries to fulfill their commitments of providing finance support, technology transfer and development and capacity building for developing countries in the pre-2020 and post-2020 period, recognizing that the ambition of many developing countries in the fight against climate change may increase with the fulfillment of these commitments.

We emphasize the importance that the provision of financial resources from developed to developing countries must be additional, predictable, accessible to all developing countries, appropriate and increased progressively based on the 100 billion dollars per year from 2020 in accordance with the needs and priorities identified by developing countries, with a view to fulfilling the objective of the Convention through a roadmap that identifies the expected annual levels of resources and a regular replenishment process to the Green Climate Fund including rules of monitoring, reporting and verification of funds effectively provided. We express our conviction that the Green Climate Fund and the other operative entities and funds established under the Finance Mechanism and Kyoto Protocol, must play a key role in the climate financing under the Convention.

We recognize the need to undertake fundamental changes in the way our societies produce and consume goods and services through a change in the consumption and production pattern at global level, led by developed countries as a fundamental element of the climate action and the promotion of economic and social development in harmony with nature, taking into account the capacity of developing countries, while reaffirming the policy space of our countries and the existence of different views, approaches and models to achieve the sustainable development.

We call all countries to recognize the crucial importance of education, capacity building, public awareness, participation and access to information, the promotion and the protection of all human rights without discrimination, including the rights of workers, the intergenerational approach, equity and the integration of the different visions of society, indigenous peoples and local communities and farmers, giving special consideration to gender equality and empowerment of women and youth, to promote changes in lifestyles, attitudes and behaviors needed to foster sustainable development and poverty eradication of our region.

We recognize the need to support and strengthen the knowledge, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities including those related to adaptation and mitigation of climate change in a holistic and integrated manner.

Likewise, we commit ourselves to strengthening policies, programs and projects undertaken by our countries on the protection, conservation, restoration and comprehensive management of our various ecosystems and their co-benefits to address climate change and to achieve sustainable development and, we encourage a greater international recognition and support for this purpose.

Mr. President,

The Paris Agreement and the decision adopted for its implementation, should consider the importance of food security, as well as of adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, in the manner that production and distribution of food, agriculture, livestock and fisheries are not threatened, and taking into account the particularities of food production that not always have available technology for absolute emission reduction. At the same time, the Paris Agreement and the decisions adopted for its implementation must not generate barriers to international trade.

We identify the need to strengthen the resilience of oceans and seas to the impacts of climate change, including the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the face of a post-2020 scenario, in line with article 4.1 (d) of the Convention.

We urge the international community, and especially the developed countries, to fulfill all their commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, and the urgent ratification of the Doha Amendment so as to allow the entry into force of the second commitment period as soon as possible.

We stress the importance of promoting the development of technology, its transfer, dissemination and diffusion to developing countries on favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms.

In conclusion Mr. President,

We recognize the leadership and the efforts made by Peru, a member of our region, during its presidency of the COP20, and we hope that this COP21 can conclude in a successful manner where Ecuador and all the member countries of CELAC will involve our commitment and constructive support.

I thank you.