



The Federal Republic of Somalia

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) and the Eleventh Session of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP11)

Statement at the High-Level Segment

By

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**Mr. President,
Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

I should at the outset, Mr. President, express my profound condolences to the Government and people of the Republic of France for the loss of its loved ones. We are still shocked and deeply saddened by the senseless attack perpetrated against innocent citizens of the Republic of France. Somalia has gone through these

kinds of attacks. We must resolutely stand firm against terrorism. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of France.

Notwithstanding the fact that Somalia is now striving hard to recover from the effects of a prolonged crisis; however, the destruction that we have succumbed to as a result of this crisis, will not by any means deter us from becoming part of a global low-carbon future.

And as the country is now undergoing reconstruction following a protracted crisis, the opportunity for mainstreaming climate change into its national development strategies from the very start, is being seized. We will embrace the climate-smart agriculture as the way forward – combining an increase in production while adapting to climate change and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions

Countries that have developed rapidly and have become the world's largest economies have also caused extensive damage to their quality of air, water, and soil. Somalia will ensure that this does not happen to its environment as it is being reconstructed. It will harness its alternative energies and make its rebuilding plans energy efficient, which can greatly reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions.

As we are now revising our national environmental strategies, we will call for the strengthening of political will and leadership to ensure

that the green growth vision is integrated in all sectors of the society, from the central government to regional entities, to the private sector.

The ordinary citizens in different parts of the country may be unaware of the negative impacts of climate change. Sensitization campaigns are being launched by the government to raise awareness throughout the country.

Somalia, Mr. President, is recognized by the Convention as being extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of the climate change. It is prone to droughts, floods, the disappearance of its biodiversity, and the rise in the sea level. Somalia does not, however, receive the attention it deserves. The response of the international community with regard to the plight of Somalia leaves a great deal to be desired.

For us to be able to cope with the devastating impacts of climate change and become part of a global low-carbon future, it is imperatively important that the developed countries attend to our short and long-term recovery plans. Somalia's climate change impacts are not very different from those experienced by the other Least Developing Countries. But the current reality in the country necessitates that its mitigation and adaptation schemes, for instance, are circumstance-specific. Somalia can take measures in adaptation and mitigation in accordance with its specific national

conditions and capacity. It will also ensure that its mitigation and adaptation are gender-specific.

The strong messages conveyed by the World Leaders and the Presidency of COP21, and by the UN Secretary General as to the dire need for us to come up with an agreement that is binding, ambitious, and comprehensive ought to be taken into very serious consideration. Climate change predicament can no longer be ignored, and the threats posed by its adverse impacts do not need any further emphasis.

We concur with their assertion that "failure to reach consensus in Paris will endanger all countries' long-term wellbeing". But having said this, Somalia also believes that any effort that aims at addressing the climate change must be based on the principles of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Bali Road Map.

The developed countries must be further committed to providing adequate resources and financing in the areas of adaptation and mitigation for all developing countries that are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly the LDCs and the Small Islands Developing States.

In conclusion, let me reiterate what I had said in the previous COPs, "We must not squander this opportunity. The entire world is watching us. Our children are eagerly waiting for tangible results from this gathering"