

**STATEMENT BY**  
**MR. ABDIRASHID DULANE RAFLE**  
**VICE-MINISTER**  
**MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES**  
**OF THE**  
**FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
**OF ETHIOPIA**  
**AT THE**  
**SECOND SESSION OF THE**  
**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**  
**OF THE**  
**UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION**  
**ON CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(8-19 JULY 1996)**

**GENEVA, 18 JULY 1996**

Thank you, Mr. President

Mr. President,

The climate of Ethiopia is characterised by high rainfall variability. Though the history of recurrent drought in Ethiopia goes back as early as 253.B.C, its current occurrences have been more frequent and wide spread.

Investigations have indicated that if the current state of global warming is unabated, extreme climatic conditions would be enhanced in tropical marginal areas, particularly in Africa, where the environment would be severely affected.

In fact the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) second assessment report has shown that desertification could be more extreme resulting in serious land degradation. Also the anticipated changes in rainfall amount, frequency and intensity could aggravate the magnitude of drought and floods in our fragile ecosystem. In addition climate change would have greater impact on crop yields that could enhance risk of food shortage.

Because of the hanging threat of the impact of climate change on our fragile economic systems, we have to undertake coordinated and realistic measures in the spirit of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In this regard, Ethiopia is conducting a climate change country study project under the kind assistance of the US Government. In this study we have inventoried green

house gases (ghg) emissions and conducted vulnerability, adaptation, and mitigation assessment in forestry, crop production, grassland, livestock and water resources. However, due to inadequate data, it was not possible to deduce conclusive statements from the research findings in the aforementioned priority areas in the country. We strongly feel that further research must be conducted in order to reach conclusive results. On the other hand Ethiopia is in the process of establishing National Committee on Climate Change (NCCC) with a view to carrying out its commitment within its capacity.

However, to realistically comply with the objective of the Convention (article 2), which states, "... stabilisation of ghg concentration in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interferences with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner, "international collaboration must be promoted with <sup>out</sup> conditions.

Above all, with a view to implementing the Convention as specified in article 3.2, article 4.1 and 4.8 (d.e.g), serious consideration must be given to the need to provide assistance to developing nations especially to least developed countries (LDC) en enable them to meet the incremental costs related to activities in mitigating ghg emissions and promoting sustainable development.

In accordance with article 4.5 and 4.9 of the Convention, if such plan of action is supported by transfer of technology, we are confident that not only adaptation strategy in agriculture, water resource, energy, etc..., could be realised but also the enhancement of endogenous capacity and technology would be effected.

On the other hand, in order to stabilise the ghg concentration, developed nations must take genuine steps towards meeting their commitment as specified in article 4.2 of the Convention. Therefore, with a view to converging to equitable level of per capita, developed nations must continue to reduce ghg emissions, while developing countries should not be expected to deter from such actions until such equity is realised.

This is because, the first priority for LDC is to eradicate poverty which is closely linked to environmental degradation, and hence the process of mitigating ghg emissions should not be a hindrance to our efforts in meeting the challenge to the promotion of development in food security.

Finally, I would like to appeal to the Second Session of the COP that ~~we~~ LDCs like Ethiopia must be given special consideration in their efforts to carry out sustainable development. Therefore, in the spirit of the Convention, in order to enable the LDCs to meet the inevitable challenges of mitigating ghg emissions and eradicating poverty as well as promoting food security, smooth and effective mechanisms for funding and transfer of technology must be explored by the Conference of the Parties.

Thank you.

# RECORD OF MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

COUNTRY: Ethiopia NAME OF SPEAKER: H.E. Mr. Abdirashid Duloe Rafle  
 DAY: 18 July TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ NOTE-TAKER: Pascal STATEMENT PICKED UP? ☒

AGBM-RELATED ISSUES		
The speaker indicated:	<input type="checkbox"/> a preference for an amendment <input type="checkbox"/> a preference for a protocol <input type="checkbox"/> that s/he cannot indicate a preference at this time <input type="checkbox"/> AOSIS <input type="checkbox"/> EU	Comments:
The protocol/ other legal instrument should include:	<input type="checkbox"/> mandatory policies and measures <input type="checkbox"/> voluntary policies and measures	Policies or measures specified: <u>In the process of establishing National Committee on Climate Change w/ a view to carrying out its commitment w/in its capacity</u>
Does the country support any particular target?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: _____ % by _____ year <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <u>First priority of LDCs as stressed is the eradication of poverty. Although leading to environmental degradation it is unavoidable. Process: mitigating ghg should not be an obstacle to economic development the promotion of depth in food security.</u>

SBSTA-RELATED ISSUES	
Reaching targets within the country by the year 2000 (Annex I Parties)	Comments: <u>Developed nations must take genuine steps towards meeting their obligations under the Convention re: stabilizing ghg concentration. Therefore, w/ a view to converging to equitable level of per capita, developed nations must continue to reduce ghg emissions, while developing countries should not be expected to defer such actions</u>
Development and transfer of technology	Comments: <u>until an equilibrium is reached. To enable LDCs to meet the challenges of mitigating ghg emissions + eradicating poverty as well as promoting food security, smooth and effective mechanisms for funding + transfer of technology must be explored by the COP.</u>
IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR)	Comments: <u>Speaker stressed that the first priority of LDCs is to eradicate poverty.</u>

SBI-RELATED ISSUES		
Should the GEF be the permanent financial mechanism?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Comments: <u>To implement the convention as specified in article 3.2, 4.1 + 4.8, serious consideration must be given to the need to provide assistance to developing nations especially LDCs to allow them to meet incremental costs related to activities in mitigating ghg emissions + promoting sustainable development.</u>
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	<input type="checkbox"/> in favour of pilot phase <input type="checkbox"/> distinction made between JI/AIJ	Comments: <u>Ethiopia is conducting a climate change country study project under the assistance of the US Govt.</u>
Preparation of non-Annex I communications	Comments: <u>Under the above study, they have inventoried green house gases emissions + conducted vulnerability, adaptation, + mitigation assessment in forestry, crop production, grassland, livestock + water resources.</u>	

OTHER COMMENTS: However, due to inadequate data, it was not possible to produce conclusive statements from the research findings in the priority areas listed above in the country. Further research is then needed to reach adequate conclusive results.