



**Statement by Mr. Ali Daud Mohamed, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, Kenya at the High Level Segment of COP 18/CMP8 in Doha, Qatar – 6<sup>th</sup> December, 2012**

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**Your Excellency President of COP 18,  
Honourable Ministers  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Allow me at outset to convey our appreciation to the Government and the People of Qatar for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to my delegation since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha.

**Excellencies,**

Undoubtably, Climate change is global challenge that requires global action.

The Scientific evidence of climate change is overwhelming. Temperatures are rising, island states are slowly disappearing, disasters are increasing, communities are devastated, lives and livelihoods are destroyed virtually on a daily basis. All these circumstances are crying for action and solutions and the world is looking to Doha for direction as we gather here for COP 18.

Recent authoritative scientific reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and many others, present more worrisome scenarios.

The trend of global emissions is on increasing trajectory. We are no longer on course to stabilise global average temperature below 2 °C as we set for ourselves in Cancun and reaffirmed in Durban last year. Instead, reports now indicate that we are headed for a 4°C world, which means 6°C for Kenya and many other African Countries.

All these demand actions to bridge the emissions gap. It calls for enhanced and accelerated support for adaptation for vulnerable societies. It calls for increased ambition in provision financial and technological support. And it is a call for enhanced political will from all of us to address climate change.

It is also a call for a sense of urgency in our negotiation processes.

From the adoption of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, to the Bali Road Map through Cancun and Durban, we have made great strides and registered some achievements. Lets appreciate our efforts and build on them as we work together for an effective and comprehensive climate change regime.

Let us not backslide from what we have agreed so far. Doha should therefore deliver on the following:

**First:** Developed countries, taking into account the principles and provisions of the Convention, have the moral responsibility to take leadership in addressing climate change. These countries need to present meaningful mitigation commitments beyond what has so far been pledged. The low levels of emissions reduction pledges currently being discussed, do not provide the assurances needed to tackle the growing threats of climate change.

In Durban, we said, the Kyoto Protocol (KP) should not die on an African soil. But neither should it die here Doha, as it is the only legally binding multilateral rules-based regime.



In this regard, a meaningful and effective second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol is critically important. We appreciate the countries that have already made commitments in this regard.

Other developed countries that are not party to the Kyoto Protocol should undertake ambitious comparable mitigation commitments under the Convention.

But let's be realistic. Climate change requires more actions beyond a few countries as all nations have a commitment to contribute under the Convention. It is encouraging that many developing countries have put forward Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in the context of sustainable development and poverty alleviation. Others have developed comprehensive low carbon development strategies or are in the process of doing so.

And still more global action is needed to keep us safe.

Complementary initiatives and actions that have benefits for emissions reduction should be encouraged and recognised. We support considerations that seek to better address Greenhouse gases with higher global warming potential.

**Secondly:** Even with the best efforts in mitigation, the impacts of climate change have and will continue to have devastating consequences on our communities and economies. This implies that more action is needed to help communities to adapt and build resilience. Therefore, enhanced support for adaptation is paramount.

**Thirdly:** The uncertainty in the provision of financial support between the end of fast start finance period this year and the pledge to mobilise the \$100 billions by 2020 is a source of mistrust and doesn't help confidence building in our multilateral process.

Despite the global financial challenges, action on climate change is critically important and should receive the highest attention. A mid-term financing target and a process towards realization of the \$100 billion, has to be

agreed in Doha. The financing has to be balanced between adaptation needs and mitigation actions.

**Fourth:** The institutions and frameworks we created to enhance implementation of the Convention, including the technology mechanism, the Cancun Adaptation Framework and Committee, the Standing Committee on Finance and the Green Climate Fund should be strengthened, fully operationalized and not remain empty shells.

**Fifth:** On the negotiations under the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) my delegation appreciates the work that has so far been undertaken under both work streams. We are supportive of plans to engage in robust work in 2013 to further consolidate our vision towards a legally binding agreement by 2015 at the latest. This has to go hand in hand with a process to increase pre-2020 ambitions on mitigation, adaptation, and the corresponding means of implementation.

We support an all-inclusive plan of work that brings on board civil society, youth, indigenous groups, and women, among others, so that the process can benefit from the rich knowledge and experience of all stakeholders.

### **In conclusion, Excellencies,**

We reiterate that individual actions are critical towards achieving the objective of the convention.

In Kenya, we have accepted the inevitability of climate change and we are undertaking bold deliberate policy decisions and actions towards low carbon-climate resilient development pathway. We are on course towards a 90% renewable energy target by 2030. One of the largest wind farms in Africa is under construction; geothermal development is being expanded to tap the potential of the Rift Valley resource, and we are increasing use of solar lanterns to replace kerosene lamps in rural areas.

Our national forest cover is on recovery trend through extensive afforestation and reforestation programmes.

Sustainable agricultural practices are taking root around the country.



And many more efforts are being undertaken to build resilience of our communities and these are being anchored in our long-term development strategies.

Needless to emphasize, the interventions undertaken by countries like Kenya are very expensive and require international support.

**Excellencies,**

We appreciate that the international climate change negotiations will always be a challenging process. Our countries have many shared cultures, histories and resources, but we also have differences. Our economic differences and levels of industrialisation present the largest hurdle. However, this should not divide us at the expense of addressing climate change.

The solutions are within our reach. Collective accelerated actions, partnership building, and commitment to the multilateral rules-based system, are the best way to deliver positive results for climate change.

Kenya pledges its commitment and readiness to engage constructively towards a comprehensive global solution to climate change.

I thank you Mr. President.