

Speech by Her Excellency Minister of Environment of the Republic of Angola Dr
Maria de Fatima Jardim, on the occasion of the Cop17

Your Excellency the President of COP 17.....

Distinguished Ministers

Delegates

Ladies and Gentleman

Allow me Your Excellency, on behalf of His Excellency President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and the Angolan delegation, to warmly salute His Excellency President Jacob Zuma, the Government and brotherly People of South Africa for hosting the Cop17 in Durban and express our gratitude for the hospitality that we have received.

We would like to congratulate Her Excellency for the merit of presiding over this Conference as well as the President of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), and the group of Negotiators for the outcomes achieved, in this complex concertation. I am confident, that the global solidarity and responsibility prevails in our approach to the decisions we are taking.

Excellency

Climate changes present itself as one of the greatest challenges of development and sustainability of the planet which interrelates the global problems and which requires us to an increased compromise and responsibility in our collective action to preserve it future generations.

The responsibility, as Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the Global Mechanisms accepted by the Parties, cannot fail to be differentiated, but it has to be met by all in order for us to regulate the development without creating inequalities.

As Africans we have developed several initiatives, despite the financial crisis in which we live in, for the defence of vulnerabilities and the unpredictable effects on development, and the betterment of the living conditions of our citizens.

With unity and determination we are present at the Conference in Durban, our African Conference that reaffirms the African Common Position, the Summit of Heads of State of SADC which consolidates the common Platform, approved also by the African Union and demonstrate our total engagement for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol.

Equally, with consensus and fraternity, we developed the Common African Platform on Climate Changes that includes measures that reaffirm the Kyoto Protocol as the most solid legal instrument, that continues to engage all Parties

in the Bali's Plan of Action, such as in the principal decisions essential in the transition to a legal Agreement sufficiently inclusive that can be ratified by the Parties.

As developing countries, we are encouraged and we confirm our political effort to encourage Programs and Projects of low emissions integrating their actions in sustainable development.

In Durban, we have recognized the need for everyone to work for the aspirations of future generations.

We need to adapt to the climate challenges by exchanging experiences, cooperating in the transfer of technologies, approving development financing, for we all suffer from the financial crisis, but Africa suffers with unequal life, motivated by poverty, deforestation, drought and desertification and with the unpredictable costs of adaptation and mitigation vulnerabilities of direct and indirect impacts that climate changes bring on development.

The natural disasters, environmental catastrophes registered everyday in the Planet have to enable cooperation, in a fairer Sustainable Development model and the promotion of initiatives of an economy with an integrating vision of emission reduction.

We all have the responsibility for the protection of our planet. The Vulnerabilities of the small island countries, and the differences of adaptation, as well as the consequences of drought and desertification that take away millions of citizens.

The elevated costs of climate changes' vulnerability limit the promotion of Growth and Development.

Madame President

Adaptation and mitigation and the integration of appropriate sectorial policies, Programs and Projects of adequate investment are issues that should increase Cooperation and common outcomes in this event.

Angola recognizes that the Kyoto Protocol remains as the only just and balanced instrument that allows the continuity of the international community's engagement in efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Second Period is essential for the transition.

For more than 5 years Angola has been facing unpredictable torrential rains. The Socio-economic damages and their repairs represent 3% of the GDP. More than 387, thus far in 2011, people have died due to the floods, around 20,000

left homeless, school infrastructures were destroyed and millions of hectares in agricultural zones were affected.

The Government of Angola is rehabilitating the Country, with a growth that is visible and recognized by the competent institutions, we are improving the quality of life of the populations, by implementing an ambitious program to build a million houses and improving human development. Our poverty rate reduced by 36% in the last 4 years.

We are also developing structural projects for a low carbon economy. These projects are mainly in the energy and Industrial sectors and include the utilization of natural gas as well as biofuels.

The occurrence of climatic phenomena leads us to conclude that the path of a future with a vision of emission reduction is the best choice for development, for it promotes opportunities for the consolidation of socio-economic stability.

Madame President

Angola concluded the First National Communication and the National Adaptation Plan of Action that portray the initiatives to be carried out by our country in response to the principles included in the Implementation plan of a National Strategy for climate change until 2020, so that the establishment of local and global partnerships open opportunities for us to realize Emission Reduction Projects under the Clean Development Mechanism.

We appreciated and stimulated the continuity of UNDP's multilateral support, as well as the bilateral support from the European Union, USAID, Japan etc in implementation of the commitments with capacity-building. We request that bilateral actions strengthen the Government's efforts, for materialization of environmental sustainability, promotion of economic development, job creation, productivity increase with sustainable agriculture, and ecological poverty reduction, under the Government's initiatives incorporated in the National Plan of Environmental Management and adaptation and mitigation of climate changes and their impacts.

Angola has interest in joining the Sectoral Market Mechanism initiative, taking into account the infrastructure investments being made in the field of energy with emission reduction Projects.

We Consider that the Projects of biosphere reserves creation, of protection of Biodiversity Conservation Areas and support to the development of vulnerable communities and capacity-building and education and support to the Transboundary protection and preservation initiatives, particularly of the Maiombe florest and assuring the viability of initiatives in the Clean Mechanism and REDD++, lead the references of Angola's Modern Development, which founded on sustainability.

Excellency

Regarding long-awaited Green Fund, it is urgent that financial resources are made available and we all hope that the COP17 takes the necessary political courage to endow with resources its operationalization.

Ensuring the necessary resources for the long-term financing of climate changes and the Fast Start Financing for the period of 2010-2012, should facilitate a consensus in Durban, and the opportunity for Africans and Africa, and the developing countries with their natural wealth, to achieve their aimed sustainability for future generations.

It is appropriate that Africa works for the definition of priorities for a common strategy of adaptation that is interconnected to environmental sustainability and to consolidate the principles of the African platform already adopted by the Continent.

The African Union with its common platform, continues to identify concrete actions for poverty, fragility of the soils, education and capacity-building.

All United as Parts, we will demonstrate that the Rights of future Generations to live on earth are fundamental.

We have to create, in the context of the rights of humanity, another chapter of Fundamental Rights, which is for us to live saving the Planet