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SPEECH BY THE HON. JOHN N. MICHUKI, MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND MINERAL RESOURCES, KENYA, AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF COP 17/CMP7, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, DATE: 7TH DECEMBER, 2011

Madam President, Hon. Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen

Allow me first to thank the government and people of South Africa for the excellent arrangements and generous hospitality in hosting this meeting at this defining moment in the history of international climate change negotiations.

Madam President,

Science tells us that we are at crossroad in shaping the global climate. The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has never been higher and this is indeed very dangerous for our mother earth and its current and future generations. Extreme and devastating effects of climate change including the

frequent droughts and floods continue to manifest themselves in our countries and regions, jeopardizing our sustainable development goals, and displacing our peoples and ecosystems.

The recent Horn of Africa Crisis is for example the worst drought experienced in the last 60 years in our region. The effects and the frequency of these droughts and other associated impacts have made Kenya's economy drastically slow down.

We therefore don't have the luxury of time to keep postponing decisive action on climate change; certainly not in the eyes of the African people and the others from vulnerable parts of the world.

Therefore the time is now and COP 17, in Durban must deliver the deal, a deal that makes us and the future generations safe without limiting our sustainable development goals. We must take up this responsibility now and once and for all.

Madam President,

In order to achieve this objective and in keeping with the principles and the provisions of the Convention including equity, common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and historical responsibility, developed country Parties must show leadership. Developed country parties should adopt a legal 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol covering the period 2013-2017 with ambitious quantifiable targets without any conditionalities.

Similar and comparable targets must be taken by developed countries who are not parties to the KP. This is the essential deal to rebuild trust between the divides and give present and future generations the hope of safety.

In addition, it is important to acknowledge that this is a global challenge that requires participation of all nations - both developed and developing. While historical responsibilities should never be ignored, the present realities too cannot be evaded. Therefore, solutions to the greatest challenge of our time must of necessity be fair, robust and indeed comprehensive. Thus, all major economies of the world must take responsibility to undertake commitments to reduce emissions. Ambitious mitigation actions by these countries together with robust Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system is a crucial part of the deal to build confidence amongst all.

Indeed the challenge requires every nation to move towards low-carbon development pathway as endorsed in the Cancun agreements.

In Kenya, we have made clear choice on green growth as the way to sustainable development. The National Climate Change Response Strategy of 2010 is now being further developed into Comprehensive National Climate Change Action Plan to implement the Cancun decision with support from our development partners. The strategy promotes climate smart approaches in all sectors and renewable energy from geothermal, wind and solar will make Kenya zero-carbon energy country within the next five years. We invite the private sector from all over the world to join us in this profitable and exciting venture.

Madam President,

In this debate, we must reiterate that the priorities of developing countries remain sustainable development and poverty eradication. These

priorities are ever being limited by climate change, demanding enhanced adaptation and resources to go with it. Therefore, means of implementation and support to enable developing countries cope with impacts of climate change should be an integral part of Durban outcome. Developed country partners should take the issue of provision of means of support in terms of finance, technology transfer and capacity building more seriously than has been the case so far.

Madam President,

In conclusion Kenya expects Durban to deliver a balanced and comprehensive outcome with at least the following:

- Adoption of a legal second commitment period under KP which should come into force by January, 2013

- A mandate to work on the comprehensive legally binding agreement for all the elements of the Bali Action Plan while upholding the principles and provisions of the convention
- Operationalisation of the Cancun Agreements, structures and frameworks including the adaptation committee and framework, the technology mechanism, and the financial mechanism including standing committee.
- Operationalisation of effective and efficient Green Climate Fund with the commensurate initial capitalisation and governance arrangement that is under the full guidance of the COP to enhance transparency and trust. The fund should have an important window for adaptation as a priority.

The African COP must work outside the box to deliver on these important expectations for our

people. Parties must show flexibility and work in good faith to save our common planet. As positions are taken, please reflect back on the faces of those who are suffering in Africa and elsewhere and who look up to us in this conference to reach a credible and comprehensive outcome to address their plight and secure their futures.

Finally, let me express the support and willingness of the Kenyan delegation to work with you Madam President and all parties in a constructive manner to ensure COP 17 delivers a successful outcome.

I thank you for your kind attention.