



The Republic of Uganda

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE 17TH SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC AND 7TH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, SERVING AS A
MEETING OF PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL, 28TH
NOVEMBER TO 9TH DECEMBER 2011; DURBAN, SOUTH
AFRICA.**

STATEMENT BY

HON. MARIA MUTAGAMBA

**MINISTER FOR WATER AND ENVIRONMENT/HEAD OF
DELEGATION**

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**Madam President,
Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Madam President,

The delegation of Uganda congratulates you upon your election and assumption of the Presidency of COP17/CMP7. You can count on Uganda's support as you discharge your responsibilities.

We convey our appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa, and the City of Durban in particular, for the warm welcome and the conducive environment for our work in this beautiful city.

We express our deepest condolences to the people of Mali for the untimely passing on of a dedicated African citizen, Mama Konate. We shall miss him and his contribution, especially at this time when we needed him most. May the Almighty God rest his soul in eternal peace.

Madam President,

Uganda is committed to a transparent process that will lead to an inclusive and balanced outcome in Durban. That is why we have entrusted to your wise leadership the guidance of this conference which we consider an important opportunity to demonstrate and renew our commitment to addressing the climate crisis facing our planet.

We know that there are still a number of fundamental issues at stake. But we are convinced that through your innovative, transparent and constructive engagement, the *Indaba*, we shall reach convergence on the outstanding issues.

Madam President,

We all realize that climate change is already threatening the survival for many of us especially the most vulnerable whose health, food security, water, and energy needs are at risk. For instance, Uganda is currently experiencing widespread flooding where 2000 Hectares of rice were destroyed a few days ago in Doho rice scheme alone in Eastern Uganda. Many farmers in the Eastern region of the country, including areas that are known to be semi arid have lost most of their crop in the on-going unusual rains.

Therefore, we urgently need to agree on **a clear shared vision** to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention including through the global goal on the basis of equity and in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. That vision must be accompanied by the means to ensure that global emissions peak as soon as possible to guarantee our survival.

As Parties to the Convention, the time has come for us to stand up and be counted in demonstrating our total commitment in tackling the urgent challenges of climate change. We must therefore stand together and strive to find lasting solutions within this multilateral process.

Uganda and indeed the entire membership of Africa, Least Developed Countries, and Small Island Developing States are doing their best in terms of voluntary actions in the spirit of multilateralism and within their capabilities and capacity to make contributions towards the solution to the climate change challenge. Even amidst the increasing impacts, vulnerability and deceleration of our social and economic development due to climate change, we are mobilising our citizens to rise up to the challenge by engaging in activities that provide global benefits.

Madam President,

The potential contributions of most developing countries, especially LDCs, are greatly limited by the low level of development, low capacity, as well as lack of efficient technologies as recognized in the Convention and Bali Action Plan. To this end, you will recall that a comprehensive Capacity Building Framework was agreed upon at COP7 in 2001 in Marrakesh, to enable the effective participation of the developing countries in the implementation of the Convention.

Unfortunately, very little has been done, yet there are now temptations to diminish even such efforts by limiting capacity building to project-based approaches. It is important to note that without giving focussed attention to capacity building, especially for medium to long-term planning, we will only be delaying the effective participation and contribution by the developing parties towards the urgently needed solution to the problem.

While efforts are being made towards the implementation of REDD+ as a strategic contribution mainly by the developing world, any agreement should be designed to stop deforestation and degradation, not simply reduce or defer emissions. Real solutions are needed to stop deforestation and therefore tackling the drivers and underlying causes of deforestation is paramount. The drivers and underlying causes include among others; poverty, population explosion and lack of alternative livelihoods for the affected communities.

Developed countries should demonstrate their moral responsibility by accepting to take on adequate and binding emission reductions in all our mitigation efforts.

Carbon trading provides an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also promote sustainable development in host developing countries. Current situation of the carbon trading scheme clearly reveals that those countries with low emissions are not attractive to carbon investment, partly because their current

level of emissions is low.

It is important to note that the current emission levels do not take into account minimum level of consumption by these countries. Their level of consumption is low because suppressed demand (desired level of consumption) is not taken into account. Uganda calls for explicit recognition of 'suppressed demand' and its inclusion in implementation of carbon projects or activities. Indeed this would attract investment and also contribute to improving living conditions of our people.

Madam President,

Uganda, like most developing countries, has within her means and capabilities integrated climate change in her National Development Plan and formulated the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) which is due for implementation. We are also in the final stages of formulating the National Climate Change Policy. We are making concerted efforts to raise awareness, pilot our NAPA in the most vulnerable eco-systems and communities, and integrate climate change in the National Education Curriculum

In the preparation of the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), it is essential to take into account the lessons learned during the process of developing and implementing the NAPAs. It is important to get our priorities right including the serious consideration of water and sanitation, health, food security, energy, disaster risk reduction and gender perspectives. In this context, Uganda supports the establishment of a work programme on Agriculture that should first and foremost aim at enhancing climate change adaptation.

Madam President,

The expectations of the people of Uganda, and indeed the entire international community, for a positive Outcome from Durban are overwhelming. We consider the following as critical areas for a Durban Outcome.

First, it is important to operationalize the Green Climate Fund, ensure that it is adequately capitalized, and easily accessible for eligible countries. The provision of climate finance should be mandatory, and should be derived mainly from stable and predictable public sources. In Cancun we agreed to establish the Green Climate Fund, and it is therefore important that we adopt the Transition Committee here in Durban.

Second, we strongly call for the endorsement of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol here in Durban, with reasonable timeframe to allow for smooth transition to a comprehensive and legally binding agreement. We should note that to the most vulnerable, having no second commitment period is a big risk because it will signal the end of the Adaptation Fund, that survives on proceeds from the CDM.

Therefore a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will give a ray of hope for the survival of billions of the global population, especially those from the LDCs like Uganda, who are threatened by the increasing climate related disasters including floods, landslides, and prolonged droughts.

Third, the modalities and guidelines for implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAP) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as decided in the Cancun Adaptation Framework should be adopted. Therefore the LDC Fund needs to be adequately capitalized for interim financing of the NAP process. It is important to ensure that the mobilization of resources for LDCs and NAPAs is independent of each other.

Fourth, the Technology Mechanism and its components namely the Technology executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network need to be operationalized. There is need for clarity in the governance structure and linkages including the procedure and criteria for selecting the host institution.

Fifth, the institutions and frameworks established under the authority of the Conference of the Parties must be effective and accountable. They must have concrete deliverables, timeframes and work programmes for implementation taking into account scientific recommendations and the socio-economic impacts on the most vulnerable.

Madam President,

In conclusion, the legal architecture of the outcome should ensure that the obligations under both the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention are upheld. We call upon developed countries who are Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to honour their legal commitments and not attempt to merge additional and essential obligations under the Long-term Co-operative Action that are being negotiated under the Convention.

Durban outcome should therefore have a fundamental shift from business as usual to walking the talk. Climate change is not going to hibernate but it is increasing and we must act and act now with action oriented outcomes.

I thank you.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY