

## STATEMENT BY RWANDA

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Thank you Mr. President.

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am highly honoured and privileged to have this opportunity to make a statement to this high level session of COP-6 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Allow me, Sir, to convey to you and the distinguished delegates warmest greetings from the Government and people of Rwanda.

Mr. President, Rwanda associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished delegate of Nigeria on behalf of G77 and China.

Global warming is real, and recent studies have shown that global temperatures may actually rise much more than previously predicted if greenhouse gas emissions are not cut-back. Therefore, any chance for long-term changes needed to protect the global climate system resides in taking immediate actions to reduce these emissions. Obviously, many of the solutions must come from the developed countries in accordance with their binding commitments agreed to in Kyoto in 1997.

Adverse effects of climate change have become a reality in many parts of the world. In recent years, Rwanda has experienced some of the worst flooding and drought conditions witnessed in recorded history. These disasters have further exacerbated our problems of poverty, food insecurity and environmental degradation. This year alone, famine caused by extended drought conditions over much of the country claimed a significant number of human life and large numbers of livestock and wildlife were also killed. Indeed, Rwanda like many other **least developed countries** will continue to be affected much more by such disasters because of our greater vulnerability and very limited adaptive capacity to cope with these adverse effects of climate change.

The Rwandan delegation calls on COP-6 to seriously address the priority concerns of developing countries as already well elaborated by G77 and China, and other developing country delegations who spoke before me. Here, I shall only re-iterate a few of the key concerns for emphasis.

First, the **developed country parties** must as a matter of highest priority take the lead to combat climate change and the related adverse effects by undertaking concrete domestic actions to reduce their emissions.

**Second**, developed country parties should provide new, additional and adequate financial and technical support on a timely and on-going basis to the developing countries to enable our countries to build capacity for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change as committed in both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. In doing this, COP-6 should address the specific needs and special situations of the **least developed countries** in its actions with regard to funding by adopting a decision to establish a '**special fund**' to support capacity-building in the least developed countries.

**Third**, we in developing countries need real and tangible support to shift our economic pathways on to climate-friendly paths through acquisition of safe and environmentally sound technologies which will help increase our capacities to curb emissions of greenhouse gases. It must be well understood that the extent to which our countries shall implement our commitments shall largely depend on effective implementation by Annex I country Parties of their commitments related to financial support and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. Therefore, my delegation joins others to urge COP-6 to adopt a decision to establish a "**separate fund**" for technology transfer in order to enhance our implementation of the Convention and the Protocol.

**Lastly**, my delegation is pleased with the progress so far made in these negotiations. However, there are other major issues to be addressed by this COP, including issues dealing with mechanisms, compliance, Articles 4.8 and 4.9 and Articles 2.3 and 3.14 of the Kyoto Protocol, and **sinks** under LULUC, and others. Nevertheless, in the spirit of mutual respect and global co-operation, partnership and flexibility between the developed and developing country parties, my delegation strongly believes that we shall be able to negotiate an effective framework to address all these concerns.