

GAMBIA

## STATEMENT TO THE ADAPTATION PANEL

BY

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SECRETARY OF STATE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Thank you, Mr. President

Adaptation to climate change presents unique challenges, both to developing countries facing the need to adapt, and to the developed countries and development agencies that intend to assist these developing countries. Recent decisions of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC have set an international framework under which such challenges can be tackled.

I wish to report to this august body that, under the execution and supervision of my ministry between 1994 and 2004 The Gambia has conducted studies and published the following Reports

1. The GOTG/UNEP/GEF National Inventories Study - Phase I was finalized in 1994 with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through UNEP, as its implementing agency which.
2. The GOTG/USA Study on Vulnerability of the Major Economic Sectors of The Gambia to Climate Change was funded by the Government of the United States of America through the US Country Study Programme. The study involved a lot of data collection, the use of General Circulation Model outputs to develop climate change scenarios and the execution of Biophysical Models to determine adverse effects of climate change on the economy of The Gambia. Adaptation measures were identified and the Study was finalized and reported in 1997.
3. The GOTG/UCCEE Study on Capacity Development for the Clean Development Mechanism was funded by the UNEP Collaborating Center on Energy and Environment in Denmark and was completed and launched in 2001



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Mr. Chairman,

I come from a very poor region. We are poor and vulnerable. Poor people are vulnerable to the slightest shockwave.

We do not want to be poor, we want to live above the poverty line. We have developed strategies to accomplish the Millennium Development Goals (Goal 1). We have the PRSPs. All these strategies are to give our people a better life. But as we move one step forward, we are pulled two steps backward by the impact of Climate Change. ~~(to text)~~ ~~It is in this text~~

• Climate Change is a global problem but the solutions are local. It is in this context that a small country like the Gambia is very concerned that our adaptation efforts are not matched with the required assistance needed. (Financial & technological support)

• Gambia has conducted a study on Vulnerability of the Major Economic <sup>activities</sup> sectors of the Gambia to Climate Change. Adaptive measures were identified.

• A study to develop the Initial National Communications of the Gambia was carried out.



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This study contains some mitigation & adaptation measures and an implementation strategy detailing actions to be taken in the Gambia.

- Gambia a member of LDCs has started the development of the National Adaptation Program of Actions (NAPA) for the Gambia

[The development of institutional framework and coordination and supervisory mechanisms have been put in place. we hope to integrate NAPA in the national Development Programme] as to question 3.



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