



Addis-Ababa LDC Ministerial Communiqué on Climate Change 2018

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Least Developed Country Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), having met in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, on 15 October 2018 in preparation for the 24th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2018 (COP24):

Affirm that the global response to climate change must be fair and equitable to advance the interests and aspirations of poor and vulnerable countries and peoples;

Note, with grave concern, the slow progress in increasing global mitigation action and ambition given that current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and policies put the world on track for warming of more than 3°C by the end of the century;

Welcome, with appreciation, the publication on 8 October 2018 of the ‘Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty’ (1.5°C Report) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which sends a strong signal that climate action must be urgently ramped up to avoid further catastrophic warming;

Emphasise, with grave concern, that the 1.5°C Report stresses that regions at disproportionately higher risk include the least developed countries (LDCs);

Further emphasise the devastating and increasing climate change impacts already being experienced by LDCs at around 1°C of warming, including droughts, floods, sea level rise, melting of glaciers, biodiversity loss, impacts on mountain ecosystems and economies, and slowed economic growth;

Note, with particular concern, that the findings of the 1.5°C Report highlight the stark differences between warming at 1.5°C compared to 2°C, with 1.5°C of warming resulting in a reduction of climate-related risks to health, livelihood, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth, significantly reducing future costs associated with climate impacts;

Further note, with grave concern, the findings of the 1.5°C Report that highlight there are limits to adaptation and adaptive capacity for human and natural systems at global warming of 1.5°C, with associated losses, and that impacts may be long-lasting or irreversible; and **call** for increased action and support to address current and anticipated loss and damage in line with the priorities and needs identified by developing countries;

Emphasise the need to address climate impacts on agriculture, noting the vulnerability of the sector as well as its importance in improving food security, ending hunger and protecting and enhancing livelihoods in LDCs;

Recall the Paris Agreement which notes Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity;

Note, with optimism and hope, that a safer and more prosperous future for all is possible with immediate action to implement transformative change across societies, and that the 1.5°C Report shows that limiting warming to 1.5°C remains feasible and can contribute to sustainable development, eradication of poverty and reduction of inequality,

with the most ambitious scenario of the report requiring an urgent peaking of emissions, a steep decline thereafter and reaching net zero emissions around mid-century;

Emphasise the need for rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society, with rapid deployment of proven climate solutions and tools that are available right now; concrete actions like investing in and scaling up renewable energy, eradicating energy waste, managing the rapid decline of fossil fuels, protecting and expanding forests, soils and natural systems, and other real climate solutions must be implemented, recognising that any possibility of future technological solutions cannot excuse delaying action;

Call upon all Parties to agree on a political declaration and a COP decision on the Talanoa Dialogue at COP24 that sends a strong political message to strengthen the global response to climate change, upholding the spirit and vision of the Paris Agreement to achieve its long-term goals;

Further call upon all Parties to use the political momentum created by the 1.5°C Report and the Talanoa Dialogue to ramp up ambition on action and support to put the world on a 1.5°C pathway and reflect this in the submission of new and enhanced NDCs by 2020 consistent with their responsibility for climate change and capacity to respond, in order to close the emissions gap and avoid further devastating climate change impacts;

Welcome the convening of the Climate Summit by the UN Secretary General in September 2019 and encourage Parties to use this Summit as a critical opportunity to further enhance global ambition in reducing emissions and strengthening resilience;

Urge all Parties to remain committed to completing and adopting comprehensive, robust and effective implementation guidelines at COP24 in Katowice, Poland, which will enable full and ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement;

Emphasise the need for these guidelines to particularly address adaptation and loss and damage, which are crucial components of the Paris Agreement for LDCs, on the same level as mitigation;

Note, with serious concern, that trillions of dollars in climate finance are required to implement the NDCs of developing countries, and there is a significant gap that exists between this requirement and current funding; without such funding, LDCs risk being left behind in the transition to a zero-carbon future, further exacerbating existing inequality and poverty;

Emphasise that, as LDCs, we face the unique and unprecedented challenge of lifting our people out of poverty and achieving low-carbon, climate-resilient sustainable development; and that this requires global solidarity and support from the international community for the achievement of our ambitious climate plans and protecting our people from the adverse impacts of climate change;

Urge all developed country Parties and international partners to support LDCs in implementing their NDCs, national climate change policies, measures and strategies, considering the special needs and circumstances of LDCs, and by fulfilling their commitments to provide predictable, accessible, adequate and sustained financial, capacity building and technological support;

Call on all developed country Parties and international partners to provide support to LDCs for adaptation planning processes, including National Adaptation Plans, and the implementation of their actions;

Note, with grave concern, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) is critically under-resourced and **call** for urgent contributions to the Fund;

Further note, with serious concern, that some developed countries are not materialising their pledges in line with the agreed goal to mobilise 100 billion USD annually by 2020, including under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and **call upon** them to fulfill their commitments;

Call upon the Board of the GCF to initiate the replenishment process at its 21st meeting and finalise the process in an expedited manner so that there will be no funding gaps to support current and future projects and programmes;

Stress the need for facilitating access to climate finance by further streamlining and simplifying the application, approval and disbursement processes of the GCF and the Global Environment Facility;

Urge all international partners to provide support to LDCs in the spirit of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries as we strive to graduate out of the LDC category;

Call on all Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to urgently ratify the Doha Amendment to bring the Kyoto Protocol's second commitment period into force;

Encourage all countries to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;

Welcome the long-term low greenhouse gas (GHG) emission development strategies communicated by some Parties; **invite** other Parties to do the same, asserting the expressed willingness of LDCs to prepare long-term low-carbon, climate-resilient development strategies; and **emphasise** the importance of aligning these efforts with the 1.5°C pathway called for in the Paris Agreement;

Recognise the vital importance of rapidly scaling up access to renewable energy and energy efficient technologies, to enhance the wellbeing of all citizens in LDCs and contribute to implementation of the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, Istanbul Programme of Action and progress towards achieving these goals;

Welcome the Framework of the LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI), including its institutional arrangements and **call** for the continuation of this work to operationalise and implement the Initiative as soon as possible with full support by the international community;

Welcome the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilient Development (LIFE-AR) and the LDC Universities Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) as presented by the Chair of the LDC Group, with a view to further advancing these initiatives at COP24 in Poland;

Thank the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their leadership and great hospitality and facilitation of this important LDC ministerial meeting.

Issued this 15 October 2018 in Addis-Ababa, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia