



# **Statement by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on behalf of the LDC Group**

**Joint opening session for COP23/CMP13/CMA1.2**  
*6 November 2017*

## **Greetings**

Mr President, Excellencies and Colleagues,

Ni Sa Bula Vinaka Saka,

1. Ethiopia has the honour of making this statement on behalf of the Group of 47 least developed countries.
2. Mr President, the LDC Group congratulates you and Fiji for being the first ever small island developing state to preside over the COP. We cannot overstate the importance and pride of seeing a country that is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts taking on the important responsibility of guiding us through this COP and the upcoming crucial negotiating year.
3. We also commend you and your Fijian Presidency team on the proactive and inclusive approach you have laid out and expressed in your consultations and in the constructive and participatory Pre-COP Ministerial Dialogue you hosted a few weeks ago.
4. We would also like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to Morocco for their gracious hospitality and leadership at COP22 and continued engagement over this year.

## **Context**

Mr. President,

5. Climate change has already moved from science to reality, and its impacts are getting worse and more frequent. We LDCs and our people are the poorest and among the most vulnerable in the world and we are struggling to deal with these impacts. We need more ambitious action, by all countries, as soon as possible.
6. Without broad cooperation in action and ambition we will not be able to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Science has made this clear, and meeting

our agreed temperature goal is the only way to protect our current and future generations. The LDCs represent nearly one billion people, with billions more vulnerable people in other developing countries, that will not be able to cope with climate change impacts if we do not scale up our ambition, support and action.

7. This is why the LDCs see this COP23 as a crucial and strategic COP and [like others] do not consider it a transitional or place-holder COP. The urgency of addressing climate change and its impacts does not afford us the luxury of having transitional COPs. COP23 needs to be a COP of action and support that must have important substantive and procedural outcomes on a range of issues.

## **Paris Agreement work programme**

8. First and foremost, we must make significant progress at COP23 in our work on the modalities, procedures and guidelines for operationalising and implementing the Paris Agreement, and we must put ourselves on track to complete this work by our agreed deadline at the end of 2018. To do this:
  - a. We must make substantive progress by moving from concepts and high-level design to detail and text that will sit at the heart of further negotiations
  - b. We must capture this progress and we are ready to discuss the approach, including giving the requisite mandates to the APA co-Chairs and co-Facilitators
  - c. Crucially, we must have a clear plan for 2018, including how we will organise our work and milestones to keep us on track, and
  - d. We must take important decisions on some issues here at COP23, such as agreeing that the Adaptation Fund shall indeed serve the Paris Agreement, among others. Pending such decisions, we will find it very difficult to develop guidelines on “how” those linkages and issues will be addressed over the crucial next year of negotiations.

## **Talanoa Dialogue**

9. The Facilitative Dialogue or Talanoa Dialogue, to be convened in 2018, is another priority for our Group – we fully support the open, transparent and participatory approach you have outlined. This is a process that must build over the next year rather than simply be a single event at a discrete moment in time.
10. We need further clarity around its structure and design here at COP23. For the LDCs, the Talanoa Dialogue must lead to an increase in ambition by all countries to put us on track to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

## **Loss and damage**

11. Loss and damage is of course one of our Group’s highest priorities since the urgency and scale of loss and damage that we are experiencing is already beyond our capacity to respond or cope.

12. Through the work of the WIM we are beginning to take steps to better understand some aspects of loss and damage. But it still needs to be better integrated into the heart of the technical negotiations and broader ongoing work of the UNFCCC, including all relevant processes under the Paris Agreement. This must include the enhanced transparency framework and the global stocktake processes.
13. Including loss and damage as a standing agenda item of the subsidiary bodies will allow us to better identify and implement concrete approaches for support and cooperation on loss and damage. However, agenda items and discussion cannot go so far without dedicated financial, technical and capacity-building support to begin to take actual, on-the-ground action on loss and damage. The urgent need for this support is clear. Now we need to meet that need with support for action to address loss and damage.

## **Climate finance**

14. Adequate, sustainable and predictable climate finance is absolutely essential to support developing country Parties in implementing their climate actions and priorities. Yet, we are deeply concerned that instead of being significantly scaled up, climate finance instead appears to be tapering downwards particularly in the funds that are dear to us- the LDCF and the AF.
15. We need concrete progress on climate finance at this COP, in advancing the discussions on long-term finance, in ensuring adequate support flows to support adaptation action and means of implementation in developing country Parties strengthening the role of the SCF while reviewing its functions and including progress in identifying information to be provided by Parties, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 5, of the Paris Agreement.
16. LDCs in particular consistently face significant challenges in accessing support. The bureaucratic and administrative processes and high fiduciary requirements of multilateral funds do not adequately take into account the capacity constraints of LDCs and present barriers to accessing vital support. These issues need to be addressed by streamlining and simplifying the application, approval and disbursement processes to move from conceptual to real access to support.
17. LDCs also anticipate inclusive rules in the mechanisms under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, bearing in mind the unique and special circumstances of LDCs.

## **Gender**

18. Finally, the LDCs welcome the progress over the last few years on the issue of gender and climate change. We expect to further advance this issue at COP23 through the adoption of the Gender Action Plan.

## **Conclusions**

19. Before we conclude, we would also like to recognise the generosity and hospitality of Germany in helping to host the Fiji COP here in Bonn. For the LDCs, this is yet another example of how, working together, we can make

possible what otherwise might not be. The LDCs will bring this spirit of cooperation and collaboration to our work now and over the coming year.

20. Mr President, we have full faith in your able and wise leadership and the demonstrated commitment of your team.

21. Thank you, Mr President, and we look forward to working with you and all Parties in the most constructive way to make this COP a productive one, and it must be!

Vinaka vakalevu