

Statement by the Democratic Republic of the Congo on behalf of the Least Developed Countries for the Opening of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Paris Agreement

Dear Co-Chairs, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Least Developed Countries. Let me at the outset congratulate both of you for your election to Co-Chairs of the APA.

We wish to associate ourselves with the statement made by Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Co-chairs, I will make a short statement on behalf of the LDCs and will submit our full statement on the UNFCCC website.

First of all we must acknowledge the enormous progress that was made in Paris and the achievement of the Paris Agreement. As the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change we are very keen to make progress in the APA to ensure early entry into force of the Agreement. That fact that nearly all LDCs have signed the Paris Agreement is testament to the fact that we are strongly committed to the Agreement and its early entry into force.

While early entry into force is important we must not forget that the Kyoto Protocol is still a functioning agreement with important outcomes. We strongly urge all countries that have yet to ratify the Doha Amendments to do so as a matter of urgency. There are some key countries and a major group of countries that have yet to ratify the Doha Amendment and we are deeply disappointed in this. In progress of the agenda of the APA we need the assurance that existing commitments and agreements will be met.

Co-chairs, everyday we hear alarming news about the impacts of climate change. It is beholden on all of us to act promptly and decisively. We have no time to waste.

I now wish to refer to the agenda for this meeting. We understand that the agenda items are quite generic in how they are presented. While we understand the need for a broad brush at this early stage, we need an assurance that this does not mean that key issues will be swept under the table. This is not just a mitigation agreement. It is an agreement that deals with mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, capacity building, technology development and transfer, transparency, stocktaking, compliance and most importantly finance and means of implementation. We seek your assurance, co-chairs, that all issues mandated to the APA will be given full and equal treatment.

While we have a fairly limited number of agenda items at this session, we may need to consider whether the APA should broaden its mandate to pick up other elements of the Paris Agreement. As just one example, the APA may be tasked with developing guidance on long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies as described in paragraph 36 in decision 1/CP.21.

Giving additional functions to the APA will undoubtedly require further guidance from the COP. So we need to be mindful that the agenda we have set for this meeting does not lock us into consideration of only these issues into the future. The APA must play the primary role in bringing the Paris Agreement into fruition.

Co-Chairs, addressing all these issues will require careful time management and a strategic plan on how to address each issue in a comprehensive and timely manner. We, LDCs, stand ready to assist the Co-Chair in discussing how to manage this work so that we can have a comprehensive and efficient process.

I thank you.