

STATEMENT

BY

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AT THE

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE AFRICA PARTNERSHIP FORUM
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

SEPTEMBER 3, 2009 ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Your Excellency, Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Your Excellency, Abdoulie Janneh, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
Honourable Ministers
Excellency Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Secretariat
Excellency Dr. Joao Cravinho, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of
Portugal
Excellencies, the Ambassadors
Distinguished Delegates and Participants
Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to address this important session of the Africa Partnership Forum on climate change. The African Union attaches significant importance to the issue of climate change because its impacts threaten to retard Africa's development. Climate change is a problem of global dimensions and for this reason the solution must be global. The efforts of the Africa Partnership Forum (APF) in forging this global response to climate change by bringing together African countries and the G8 countries must therefore, be commended. I salute the secretariat of the Africa Partnership Forum, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and all of you in your various capacities for organizing this important meeting.

Given the seriousness of the problem that we are facing, the African Union has taken important and historic decisions on climate change.

First of all the 12th Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, held in Addis Ababa, in February 2009, decided that the ongoing international negotiations on climate change should give Africa an opportunity to elaborate its demand and get compensation for the damage to its economy caused by global warming. This is particularly given the fact that despite contributing virtually nothing to global warming, Africa has been one of the primary victims of its consequences. The Assembly also decided that Africa should be represented by one delegation, which is empowered to negotiate on behalf of all Member States, with the mandate to ensure that the resource flow to Africa is not reduced.

Secondly, the 13th Ordinary Session of African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government held in Sirte, Libya in July, 2009 took another remarkable decision and established the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) comprising of the Chairperson of the African Union; the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; the Republic of Algeria; the Republic of Congo; the Republic of Kenya; the Republic of Mauritius; the Republic of Mozambique; the Republic of Nigeria; the Republic of Uganda; the Chairperson of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment; the Chairperson of the African Union Commission; and technical Negotiators on climate change from all Member states. The 13th Ordinary Session of African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government also mandated CAHOSCC, all AU Ambassadors and African negotiators from member States attending the negotiation process towards the 15th Conference of Parties (COP 15) to make use of the approved African common position on climate change.

I am happy to inform you that the CAHOSCC has already commenced work as mandated by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. On the 24th August 2009, representatives of CAHOSCC and African lead experts on climate change held a consultative meeting in Addis Ababa. On the 31st August 2009, CAHOSCC met again in the margins of the AU special summit in Tripoli, Libya in their efforts to consolidate Africa's common position on climate change. CAHOSCC will provide leadership in the run up to the fifteenth conference of parties in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009 to agree on a common strategy in the upcoming negotiations.

Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, these decisions indicate a fundamental shift in Africa's policy towards international negotiations on climate change. The most important aspect of these decisions is that Africa must be compensated for the damage caused to its economy as a result of global warming. Developed countries that are historically responsible for the problem of climate change must compensate Africa for its impacts that are now wreaking havoc to the continent's economy.

In now turn my attention to the four main themes that are under negotiation and that will be the focus of the Copenhagen summit:

1. Financing Climate Change in Africa

17 years ago, in 1992, developed countries made a commitment in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to provide financial resources to address climate change impacts in developing countries. However, to this day financial mechanisms to address climate change impacts remain inadequate, fragmented and complex! The existing financial mechanisms are largely inaccessible to African countries. It is my sincere hope that the efforts of the Africa Partnership Forum that began at its 8th session and continued at its 10th, 11th and 12th sessions as well as today's session will boost Africa's demand for significantly scaled up financial resources to address climate change impacts. Such financial resources must be new, additional, adequate, predictable and sustainable. In particular, I call upon the G8 countries to honour their financial commitments to Africa to address climate change. In making this call, I am guided by the decision of the Assembly of African Heads of State and Government to the

effect that Africa must be compensated by developed countries for the impacts of climate change. It is my expectation that such financial resources must be from public funds and must be additional to the usual Overseas Development Assistance (ODA).

2. Adaptation to Climate Change

There is need to recognize the urgency, immediacy and greater attention and efforts toward adaptation to minimize climate change impacts in Africa. There is need to adopt a comprehensive framework for addressing adaptation including ensuring that financial and technology transfer commitments to address adaptation needs in Africa by developed country Parties are honoured by developed countries. Commitments made by developed countries to address adaptation should be regularly monitored and reviewed to ensure that they are complied with. Commitments made by developed countries to address adaptation should be legally binding. Mainstreaming of adaptation into the development planning process should be funded by developed countries.

3. Mitigation

Developed countries must also double their efforts to address the root cause of the problem. All developed countries must urgently commit themselves to reduce carbon emissions in line with the findings of the fourth Assessment Report of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Developed countries irrespective of whether or not they have ratified the Kyoto Protocol should undertake to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% below 1990 levels by 2020 and at least 80% to 95% below 1990 levels by 2050. Irrespective of whether advanced developing countries agree to emissions reductions that are binding, developed countries must take the lead and agree to ambitious emissions cuts. The action of developed countries to cut emissions must therefore, not be dependent on the agreement of developing countries to binding emissions cuts.

4. Technology Transfer and Development

Africa demands that the existing intellectual property regime be substantially revised to ease technology development and transfer to developing countries including Africa. Developed countries should meet the full cost for the deployment, diffusion and transfer of technology to developing countries together with finance and capacity building for urgent and immediate adaptation actions in developing countries. All barriers to technology development and transfer should be addressed.

It is my sincere hope that today's session will continue to consolidate Africa's partnership with the G8 on issues of climate change and is a key milestone towards building the much desired partnership.

I wish you happy and rewarding deliberations! I thank you!