

Speech of Hon. Soipan Tuya, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Kenya

11th conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa

- Mr. Stephen Jackson, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Kenya
- Mr. Antonio Pedro, Acting Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
- Prof. Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth, African Development Bank (AfDB)
- H.E. Josefa Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment (ARBE), African Union Commission (AUC)

All invited guests, Ladies & Gentlemen.

I would like to welcome you to this 11th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, taking place here in Nairobi, Kenya.

My hope of the outcomes of this event is to get key actionable messages and recommendations that can contribute to Africa's fight against climate change and ensure accelerated path to low carbon and resilient development in the continent.

African countries are faced with common multiple challenges that include: (1) Increased frequency and intensity of climate change impacts ii) Food insecurity resulting from the war in Ukraine; and iii) Financial and debt crisis afflicting many countries.

Africa emits 2 to 3 per cent of global greenhouse gases (GHG) and significantly contributes to the sequestration of carbon emissions through its natural capital, but up to 118 million of the poorest Africans will suffer the worst impacts of climate change by 2030.

Even if the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) pledges are met, the

global warming will continue to rise beyond 2.4 degrees. Adaptation costs, which are estimated annually to be equivalent to 1.5 - 3% of GDP will undermine Africa's development and aspirations as embedded in the agenda 2063. Long-term sustainable development in Africa therefore hinges on the successful adaptation and mitigation of climate change impacts because Africa's growth depends heavily on climate sensitive sectors and natural resources.

However, climate change and associated socioeconomic challenges should not make Africa lose sight of unique opportunities linked to this phenomenon. Endowed with unique sets of opportunities, Africa is capable of overcoming climate change challenges and turn them into development opportunities through innovations, clean technologies and a paradigm shift in production, processing, markets, and energy mix to ensure a green, blue and renewable energy pathway, that unlocks Africa's huge natural resource and human potential.

Harnessing these rich enormous resources however requires mobilization of financial resources from both domestic and international sources to enable Africa tackle climate change and facilitate the option for clean and low carbon development pathways.

Ladies and Gentlemen

This year, the ClimDev-Africa partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry of the Government of Kenya and with the support of the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) have convened this 3-day event with the purpose of providing technical inputs to the Africa Climate Summit (ACS).

In addition, for African countries, this Conference constitutes an important step in the preparation for COP28 scheduled for the United Arab Emirates later this year. We should therefore actively engage on issues that are critical to Africa in the coming three days in the beautiful green city of Nairobi. This will contribute to a strong, clear, and unified voice at COP28 in Dubai, that ensures the continent is at the center of negotiations and leads to a successful outcome for Africa.

Ladies and Gentlemen

Kenya has achieved remarkable success in developing a well-diversified power generation mix and could achieve a fully green electricity grid by 2030. We are determined to continue on this low-carbon growth path towards a sustainable and resilient national economy.

This is the reason Kenya offered to host the inaugural Africa Climate Summit on the theme of “***Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa***”

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Government of Kenya expects that the rich engagements within this gathering of regional climate change and development experts, will build momentum and consensus towards the Africa Climate Summit, the UN Climate Summit and the UNFCCC COP28.

Lastly, I welcome you to take time to explore the beauty and scenic attractions that Kenya has to offer and enjoy the warm hospitality of Kenyan people before returning to your homes.

Thank you.