Statement by the Republic of Mali to the Opening Plenary of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) on behalf of the African Group

08 – 18 May 2017

Co-Chairs,

The Republic of Mali is honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the 54 African Group member states. We associate ourselves, and fully endorse the statement made by the Republic of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and acknowledge the statement made by the Republic on Ethiopia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries. We further join Parties who have expressed confidence in your leadership. The African Group pledges its support to your guidance in a balanced, transparent, consultative, inclusive, and party-driven manner at these deliberations and further until when the APA forwards its work to the CMA in December 2018.

Co-Chairs,

We note the progress made at COP 22 in Marrakech which outlined some key aspects of the work programme for developing the modalities for the implementation of the Paris Agreement from 2020. It is our view that the 3rd part of the 1st session of the APA should build from the exchange of views captured in your reflections note, and the co-facilitator notes for specific agenda items. It is therefore our view that this session should consider that progress, as well as incorporate views expressed in submissions and intersessional work in 2018.

Co-Chairs,

We believe the work of this session will be organised such that Parties can continue making their contribution in a forum that encourages the rich exchange of views seen to date, with a view of capturing the diversity of those views in co-facilitator notes. The structure of the discussions in Marrakech, which is also reflected in the submissions made by Parties, should continue to guide and focus our negotiations with a view to moving to party-driven and party-owned negotiation texts. Noting that the different agenda items are at different levels of maturity, it is our view that this session must further provide clear guidance for the intersessional work between May 2017 and COP 23.

Co-Chairs,

We would like draw your attention to the following important aspects which, in our view, requires your leadership to take note of, in order to achieve an effective and coherent negotiation process going to 2018:

Firstly, we understand that there are several interlinkages, particularly between transparency and the global stocktake. These two agenda items, according to our understanding, are further linked to mitigation, adaptation, and means of implementation under the SBI and SBSTA, as well as with mandates given to the constituted bodies of the Convention. In this respect, we call on you to prepare a non-prescriptive, non-exhaustive note, at your own responsibility for

consideration by Parties, which outlines the scope of negotiations under each of the agenda items to minimise duplications across issues that require distinct separation.

Secondly, we note that there are several items of the work programme of Decision 1/CP.21 that are discussed in constituted bodies under the Convention. Some of these bodies are mandated to submit the outcomes of their work to CMA 1. We are of the view these items would benefit from further guidance emerging from the negotiations under the APA.

Noting that the APA also has the mandate to implement the work programme and forward its outcomes to the CMA, it should also work towards providing guidance where called to do so, under each of the agenda item. This guidance should further be captured in conclusions to ensure progress in the implementation of the work programme.

Lastly Co-Chairs,

We call for the exhaustion of all the numerous issues that require our attention under Agenda Item 8 as such will benefit our members and others in these negotiations. We are of the view that the exercise started in Marrakech of identifying other bodies that could address those issues should form the basis of our starting point. It would take us further to identify the specific agenda items where such aspects could be addressed, where appropriate. Of specific concern to the African Group is the discussion of 'modalities for recognition of adaptation efforts' as well as well as 'modalities for the Biennial Communication of Indicative Support (BCIS) by developed countries.

The importance of balanced progress across the APA agenda items is important to provide the necessary assurances for Parties. An example is that, as a Group, we would like to highlight that progress on the issue of compliance largely relies on the progress achieved under the transparency negotiations, particularly on support provided to developing countries, as well as clear modalities for the biennial communications of indicative support by developed countries.

Co-Chairs,

The African Group stands ready to engage with all Parties, and support you and your co-facilitators in guiding our work in the most efficient and inclusive manner.

I thank you.