# Statement by Ethiopia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries

APA 1-3 – closing plenary

18 May 2017

Co-Chairs,

1. I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the Least Developed Countries. I associate this statement with the statement made by Ecuador on behalf of the G77+China and Mali on behalf of the African Group (Add Maldives on behalf of AOSIS if appropriate)

2. Thank you Co-Chairs, co-Facilitators and the secretariat for your hard work and dedication.

## General

3. The LDCs recognise that there has been some progress on the important work under the APA but that we still need to go farther faster in order to complete our work by the end of next year.

4. We also recognise that different issues have different complexities, but that they ***all*** must progress, with the view to finalising out work at COP24. When important issues lag far behind others, we risk losing not only the balance we struck in Paris but also a crucial opportunity to develop necessary linkages and coherence between different elements of the work.

5. With that said, we see a real need to help move along issues that are lagging behind. Our Group thinks that the inter-sessional submissions as well as pre-sessional and in-session roundtables we will have in November will help us do that.

## On specific agenda items (3-8)

6. With respect to agenda item 3, we would have liked to see much more progress. We see a clear linkage between the work under this agenda item and that on the transparency framework under agenda item 5. In particular, developing rules for reporting in

relation to NDCs without an equally mature understanding of the features, information and accounting of NDCs will not allow us to build an internally coherent and fully transparent review process under the Paris Agreement.

7. On agenda item 4, the LDCs welcome the exchange of views in identifying modalities for further guidance in relation to adaptation communications. The pre-sessional roundtable along with the submissions by Parties will provide a good basis for Parties to advance this work. We look forward to continue this work in November and strongly urge all Parties to work constructively with us.

8. On agenda item 5, we appreciate the relative complexity of this topic and its central role in fully implementing the Paris Agreement and achieving its ultimate objectives. However, we need to ensure a balance with respect to the two key focus areas of the transparency framework. Transparency of support must be treated with the same importance and receive the same attention and diligence as transparency of action. In this respect we recognise the important work being done on certain aspects of transparency of support under the SBSTA. But the work under SBSTA cannot be considered a substitute for the work needed under the APA. We need to find a way to reflect and build upon the relevant progress under SBSTA into our discussions under the APA.

9. With respect to discussions on the global stocktake, we realise that this is a new process that needs more discussion. However we need to cultivate a constructive discussion on this item in light of its crucial role in taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement. To do this, the global stocktake must be viewed in a holistic and balanced manner covering all thematic areas, in the same spirit and nature of the Paris, in the same spirit and nature of the Paris Agreement itself. Therefore, we cannot let discussions on this agenda item fall further behind the others.

10. On work related to the committee established under Article 15, we look forward to providing our views in further submissions and participating in the in-session roundtable on this agenda item.

One of our highest priorities in this process is to have a full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and this necessarily means full implementation of its provisions and compliance with the obligations under it.

11. And finally, on agenda item 8, we expected far greater progress on the issues under this agenda item, and in particular with respect to having the Adaptation Fund serve the Paris Agreement. We emphasise that the Adaptation Fund and this issue are very important for our Group and we maintain that we can make substantial progress at COP23 by taking simple procedural decisions to the effect that the Adaptation Fund shall serve the Paris Agreement. We recognise that further discussions and decisions would then be needed to address institutional considerations for example.

12. Co-Chairs, let me close by saying once again that we are grateful for your guidance and openness throughout this process and look forward to working with you and all Parties to make significant substantive progress on all issues it COP23.