Statement of Head of delegation of the Republic of Mauritius

at the high level segment of the UNFCCC COP16/CMP6

Cancun, Mexico, 9 December 2010

Madam President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Greetings on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Mauritius. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the Government of Mexico for its warm hospitality, excellent arrangements and initiatives taken for a positive outcome in Cancun.

At the very outset, I would like to express our full support to the statements made on behalf of AOSIS, the African group and the Group of 77 and China.

Madam President, I will focus my intervention on four issues:

First, on the urgency to address climate change. Science and devastating natural events worldwide point to a deepening climate crisis. For all SIDS, LDCs, Africa, and other highly vulnerable countries, this is worrying and

unacceptable. We have a narrow window of opportunity to address the defining challenge that climate change represents. It would be irresponsible on our part to further delay a long and overdue response.

COP-16 must demonstrate that the international community remains serious and committed and decisions should be framed within our overall objective of limiting global warming to well below 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels and atmospheric GHG concentration well below 350 ppm of CO_2 equivalent.

Second, on adaptation. There is an urgent need for the formal establishment at Cancun of a new permanent body under the Convention to assist developing countries that lack the experience, capacity, technology and finance to design and implement adaptation actions on the scale that will be required to reduce vulnerability and adjust to the impacts of climate change.

Madam President, the fast start financing commitments made at Copenhagen should be brought formally under the UNFCCC. The COP should further ensure a more balanced allocation of these resources between adaptation and mitigation, and prioritisiation for SIDS and other vulnerable countries. Any decision on fast start financing should not divert attention from longer term financing badly needed.

Third, on Mitigation. **Madam President**, mitigation ambition must be scaled up to deliver emission reductions consistent with the science-based long-term goal. It is high time for a decision to bring the mitigation pledges into the Convention process, taking into account the principles and provisions of the Convention and the Bali Action Plan. More ambitious pledges and a second commitment period by Annex I Parties are critical.

Madam President,

Allow me to mention that within its very limited means, the Government of Mauritius has for a number of years been investing heavily towards the greening of our economy. We have embarked on a "Maurice Ile Durable" programme. We have set a target of achieving 35 % of renewable energy production by the year 2025. A number of other initiatives are also underway to attain this goal. We also firmly believe that promoting sustainable consumption and production should be one of the key responses to prevent global warming and promoting sustainable development. We have a National Action Plan on sustainable Consumption and production and a number of projects are already under implementation. However, to further pave our way towards sustainability, we need the full technical and financial support of the international community and development partners.

Fourth, on the need for legally binding agreements. A real demonstration of leadership from developed countries, flexibility and a sense of compromise from all parties are more than ever required at this juncture for a legally binding outcome.

In conclusion, we would like to reassure you, **Madam President**, of our determination to work with all parties for an outcome worthy of this testing and defining moment for the sake of our children and future generations.

Thank you, Madam President.