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Statement delivered by Mr. Tesfai Ghebreselassie Sebhatu
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High Level Segment of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC
Cancun – Mexico, 8 December, 2010

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me Madame Chair to congratulate you on your election to preside this historic Conference and thank the people and government of Mexico for the kind hospitality accorded to my Eritrean delegation since its arrival. Special thanks go also to the Secretariat for their effort in putting up all this together.

Madam President,

To reiterate the obvious and what has been repeatedly elaborated by predecessor speakers, climate change is a real challenge facing our planet. In fact, since long it had reached a magnitude that makes it a critical issue of survival for my country Eritrea, as it is so for the countries of the region I came from.

In this period of transition one may notice differences in the distribution and severity of the unfolding phenomenon of global warming and its adverse impacts on different parts of the Earth. But this temporary unevenness, I am convinced, does not warrant any valid scepticism about the scientific consensus on the effects of unsustainable use of natural resources on climate and that the menacing consequences of global warming are bound to be all-embracing at an alarming speed.

Many compelling evidences have been indicated to prove the path that has been followed by mankind in meeting its unfettered greed is unsustainable and detrimental to life on our planet. It is high time for mankind to adopt new models of development and divorce from business as usual in order to protect life on Earth with all its diversity and beauty. However this may be taxing and difficult now, we strongly believe that it is worth the sacrifices and it is surmountable by applying the finest

technologies the best innovative human brains have already produced and can produce in the future as well as by marshalling available resource.

Bearing in mind the gravity of effects of climate change, my delegation urges all developed countries to show leadership in cutting their GHG emissions to match the level of the latest scientific recommendations that will enable avert catastrophic consequences.

We strongly urge the developed countries that are Party to the KP also to unconditionally consent to the second commitment period.

In echoing this demand, we reiterate our firm commitment to the basic principles of the Convention that require of each Party to shoulder their share of responsibility. Letting the issue be about maintaining and or acquiring economic competitiveness at the cost of the common natural heritage should not be allowed.

All parties must show political readiness and commitment to reach a legally binding agreement under LCA comparable to KP, at the latest in the upcoming COP 17 to be held in Durban.

In the case of the LDC, to which my country belongs, enhanced international cooperation on adaptation is of paramount importance to reduce vulnerability and build resilience. We fully recognise also the importance and need for our countries to implement nationally appropriate mitigation measures. We therefore legitimately request to be provided with the necessary finance, technology, and capacity building supports to implement these measures.

It goes without say that the commitment of the developed countries to provide the financial support for adaptation and nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) to be predictable, easily accessible to the needy and its management to be transparent and accountable.

Nations of the world cannot unite more than in protecting the environment for the sake of the common good of present and future generations. This is the expectation of all citizens of the world; we have to live up to it through our deliberations in this Cop Conference as well as in the upcoming one.

Thank you for your attention.