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# STATEMENT

**Prof. Ogunlade Davidson, Minister of Energy and Water Resources**
**THE HEAD OF DELEGATION OF SIERRA LEONE**

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP16/CMP 6)**

**CANCUN, MEXICO, 29TH NOVEMBER TO 10TH DECEMBER, 2010**

**Mr. President,**

**H.E. Ministers of Government**

**Distinguished delegates**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I speak here on behalf of the President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Government of Mexico for hosting this Conference and for the kind hospitality my delegation has received since we arrived in this beautiful city of Cancun.

**Mr. President,**

Sierra Leone is in the Least Developed Countries Group and its historical and current emissions of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere is negligible but yet exposed fully to the adverse impact of climate instability. Presently, the country is suffering from the impacts of the changing climate the world is now witnessing. Unusual floods and changing rainfall patterns have had terrible impacts on our farming community resulting in mudslides, destruction of coastal areas, reduction in crop yields and even deaths of the most vulnerable. The impact of these impacts coupled with existing socio-economic problems only increase stress on our food security and livelihood programmes.

**Mr. President,**

Despite these and other climate change related challenges, the country submitted its Initial National Communications in 2006 and the National Adaptation Programme for Action (NAPA) in 2008 and presently preparing our Second National Communications. In addition, the country

continues to formulate climate friendly policies and programmes geared towards implementation of the Government's development programme, Agenda for Change along with the objectives of the UNFCCC.

Mr. President,

Sierra Leone reaffirmed its association and support with the Least Developed Countries, the African Group and the G77 and China for the various positions taken on the on-going negotiations here in Cancun. Particularly, we call on delegations to support a legally-binding agreement to reduce GHG in the atmosphere as it is the most plausible path towards achieving acceptable stabilisation limit and avoid suffering from adverse effects of irreversible climate impacts. Kyoto Protocol was and should be taken as a first step towards this goal. Hence, any binding agreement should ensure that in addition to stabilisation, a safe and happy world will provide economic and social benefits for the vast majority of society. We fully support the two negotiating tracts, of the Kyoto Protocol (KP) and the Long-term cooperative action (LCA), and sincerely hope that meaningfully progress will be achieved in Cancun. In particular, the following issues are of specific concern:

- Low stabilization target of 450 ppmv should be the long term goal for all Parties.
- Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change should be given high priority for LDCs, while assisting in the promotion of sustainable development, poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
- Financial and technological support should be given to vulnerable countries to offset the adverse impacts of climate change through technological cooperation and building of the necessary human and institutional capacities.
- Sierra Leone recognizes the crucial role of REDD including REDD-plus and urge the establishment of national REDD strategies and mechanisms.

- Support is needed for the development of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects for countries with small markets with clear rules and guidelines on fast track financing of projects.
- The promotion of Research and systematic observation, and Education, Training and Public Awareness is crucial for LDCs.

**Mr. President,**

Despite the economic and environmental challenges, Sierra Leone is not waiting for global actions, but is using its own financial resources to promote climate-friendly policies and activities within their poverty reduction strategy. These include:

- Installation of 10,000 solar powered street lamps in all its major cities and towns
- In the next few years, a 60-70 MW bio-energy plant using sugar residues will be completed
- Installation of energy efficiency bulbs in households in its main cities
- Various tree planting programmes as a means of combating deforestation along with controlled logging practices
- Various agricultural practices to cope with climate variability

**Mr. President, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In closing, let me implore our developed country friends to take full advantage of these voluntary actions by developing countries and provide the catalytic instruments in the form of technical and financial resources so that the objectives of the UNFCCC can be achieved within tolerable limits. We should not forget that the technologies and financial models for this goal is available. Let me assure this conference of Sierra Leone's unfaltering cooperation for the best outcome of this 16$^{th}$ Conference of the Parties and the 6$^{th}$ Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

I thank you for your attention