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Republic of Rwanda

Statement delivered by the Honourable Stanislas KAMANZI, Minister of Environment and Lands; at the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
Cancun/ Mexico, 8th December 2010.

Excellencies Heads of State and Governement,
Excellency Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General,
Madam the President of the COP 16 and CMP6,
Ministers and Head of Delegations,
Madam the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC,
Head of Delegations
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am greatly honoured to address the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the 6th CMP, on behalf of Rwanda.

Madam President,
Let me congratulate you for your assumption of the chair and the excellent facilitation of the convening of this Conference. Allow me in particular to express my delegation's sincere appreciation to the People and the Government of Mexico for the warm hospitality bestowed on us since our arrival in this wonderful City of Cancun.

My congratulations and pledge of support and cooperation also go to Ms. Christiana Figueres on her appointment as the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC.

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My delegation is so deeply contented that we are gathered here in Cancun as Nations with one same aim, same hopes and resolve to streamline the Climate Change agenda on the adequate track following our last Copenhagen rendezvous that left many with bitter sentiments for not meeting the high expectations that we had set for ourselves.

A year has elapsed, and no doubt this time has given us an opportunity to refocus on what ought to be done; to realistically forge a clear way towards agreeing on a collective strategy to effectively address climate change, and its more and more increasing destructive impacts on our cherished planet.

Commendation should go to those Nations that in a forward-looking fashion, put their efforts together to leverage an interface and spirit of convergence, taking into account each and every party's specific concerns; as negotiations were being carried out in the lead- up to our congregation here in Cancun.

Commendation should also go to those Countries that individually initiated concrete actions aimed at tackling climate change by way of adequate mitigation undertakings, through embracing new clean technologies to cut their emissions; but also by way of supporting adaptation programmes especially in favour of the most vulnerable countries including Africa, LDCs and the SIDS. Let us however remain mindful that very little has been achieved globally; and that more action is imperative within a comprehensive and responsible framework.

Let me take the opportunity to communicate that, albeit being a net carbon sink; Rwanda has embarked on the elaboration of a National Climate Change and Low Carbon Strategy. The process is effectively underway since November. It is being carried with technical assistance by high profile scientists that will help lay out an evidence- based roadmap to set up a climate compatible development mainstream, in line with our medium and long term established national ambitions.

Rwanda will also standby the rest of the Nations and the whole World as we strive to articulate a coherent and fair climate change regime commensurate to the challenges we are presently faced with; that call for immediate action.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Copenhagen fell short of a legally binding regulatory climate change platform; but broke ground for availing funding needed to support mitigation and adaptation programs, including technology transfer to the most vulnerable developing Countries. Lack of an appropriate operational framework led to illusory fulfillment of the pledges that were made in connection with the Copenhagen thrust. We must ensure that Cancun is the milestone to set up such a transparent and accessible financing framework; and the proposed Green Fund surely would serve the purpose. Rwanda sidelines with the whole of Africa to support its establishment.

On this note; let me thank you for your kind attention and wish us fruitful deliberations.

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