# The Transitional Federal Government of the Somali Republic

## The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 16) and the Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 6)

**Statement at the High-Level Segment**

**By**

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**Head of the Somali Delegation at the Conference**

**Madam President,**
**Heads of State and Government,**
**Honorable Ministers and Heads of Delegations,**
**Excellencies,**
**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me Mme President on behalf of my Government and my people to congratulate you on your election as the President for the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

Allow me also at the outset to express my deep appreciation to the Government and people of Mexico for the warm hospitality. The efforts and goodwill spearheaded by your government and your people with the view to ensuring the success of COP 16 are commended.

Somalia, Mme President, is recognized by the Convention as being extremely vulnerable to the adverse impacts of the climate change. It is prone to droughts, floods and the disappearance of its biodiversity. Somalia does not, however, receive the attention it deserves. The response of the international community with regard to the plight of Somalia leaves a great deal to be desired.

Thanks to the efforts exerted by the Government of the National Unity incepted following the successful completion of the Djibouti Peace Process in early 2009, Somalia has acceded to the UNFCCC on September 11, 2009. This accession entered into force on December 10, 2009. It has acceded to Kyoto Protocol on July 26, 2010. This accession entered into force on October 24, 2010. Our belated ratifications of the Convention and the Protocol notwithstanding, Somalia, not unlike the rest of the most vulnerable states, is indeed committed to respond to the menaces of the climate change.

But for Somalia to be able to cope with the devastating impacts of climate change and become part of a global low-carbon future, it is imperatively important that the world community attend to the country's short and long-term post-conflict recovery plans. Somalia's climate change impacts are not very different from those experienced by the other LDCs. But the current post-conflict reality in the country necessitates that its mitigation and adaptation schemes, for instance, are circumstance-specific.

**Mme President**

Our country is now striving hard to recover from the effects of the prolonged civil strife. The two-decade destruction that we have experienced will not, however, deter us from pursuing a development that is environmentally sustainable: the kind of growth and development that takes into account the dire need for the introduction of low-carbon technologies in the future, the adoption of other abatement technologies that curtail emissions, and the development of a long-term vision that draws on the nation's incredible solar resource and biomass in the production of renewable energy.

But despite Somalia's serious efforts to pursue a sustainable pathway and engage in its reforestation programmes and in the protection of its environment, it continues to succumb to overexploitation of its terrestrial and marine resources. The export of charcoal to some of the countries in the area continues unabated. This continues to induce large scale loss of biodiversity and land and forest degradation.

The country's 3333-Km coastline continues to attract foreign vessels, which are engaged in looting the country's marine resources. The same vessels flush their wastes in the country's territorial waters, and go as far as dumping toxic wastes. The implications of this dumping are indeed dire: there are certainly unavoidable impacts resulting from this dumping.

The foreign countries that import charcoal from those areas of Somalia infested by the radical extremists with links to international terrorism, and that loot the nations' marine resources and dump wastes in the territorial waters are "Parties" to the UNFCCC and to other multilateral environmental agreements. We are deeply concerned about these countries' lack of sensitivity to the plight of the Somali people.

**Mme President**

The strong messages conveyed by the President of Mexico and by the UN Secretary General and the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC as to the threats posed by the adverse impacts of the climate change do not need any further emphasis. We concur with their assertion that "failure to reach consensus in Cancun will endanger all countries' long-term wellbeing".

Cancun must deliver specific actions that can reduce the gap between developed and developing countries. The developed countries must show flexibility and must deliver on their financial obligations and provide adequate resources in the areas of adaptation and mitigation for all developing countries that are vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly the LDCs and SIDS.

**Excellencies**

**Distinguished Delegates**

Somalia believes that any effort that aims at addressing the climate change must be based on the principles of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Bali Road Map. It supports the continuation of the Kyoto Protocol. It demands a fair, ambitious, and legally binding deal based on justice. Somalia supports the position of the African Group, the Group of 77 and China, and that of the LDCs.

In conclusion, let me reiterate what I had said last year in Copenhagen: **We must not squander this opportunity. The entire world is watching us. Our children are eagerly waiting for tangible results from this gathering.**

Thank you for Kind attention