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Statement delivered on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group

by

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At the Sixteen Session of the Conference of the Parties (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)

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Your Excellency, the President of the 16th Session of the Conference of Parties,

Your Excellency, the President of the United Mexican States,

Your Excellencies, Head of States and Governments,

Your Excellency, the Secretary General of the United Nations,

Honourable Ministers,

The Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Secretariat,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my singular honour and indeed, privilege to address this 16th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and, the 6th Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group. The Group wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of Mexico for the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival here in Cancun.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam President, upon your election to lead the UNFCCC process, during this critical period in the next twelve months.

Madam President,

We once again meet as guardians of that noble objective of the UNFCCC, to coordinate the global activities to mitigate climate change, and to adapt to its impacts. Since Copenhagen, twelve months ago; millions of tones of Green House Gases (GHGs) have settled in the atmosphere thereby increasing their concentration. On the other hand, evidence of climate change impacts continues to show. Scientific reports are bound with disturbing observed indicators of global warming since the 1980s.

The LDCs, characterized by a limited adaptive capacity has few options, to respond to this emerging climate change situations. I therefore take this opportunity, on behalf of the LDCs to appeal to all to take a fresh look at the precarious situation that prevails in the 49-Member Least Developed Countries. These countries are experiencing challenges such as sea level rise, enhanced land degradation, declining land – carrying capacity, drought and biodiversity loss to mention a few. This no doubt confirms that climate change for the LDCs indeed remains a matter of survival.

Madam President,

The UNFCCC process carries the hope for the future. It may be true that in the past, Conferences of the Parties have not always been successful in advancing the UNFCCC mandate. However, the restored trust and the candid exchange taking place here in Cancun, have provided a fresh impetus for success in the near future, particularly for COP17 in Durban, South Africa next year. We should always maintain the centrality of the UNFCCC process as the international platform, to address climate change. At the same time, we should continue to respect science to guide our negotiations. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Meteorological Organization, the Intergovernmental Council of Scientific Unions, and other bodies, deserve mentioning in this regard as sources of objective analysis in respect of anthropogenic emissions of GHGs and climate change.

Madam President,

COP 16 is expected to make decisions on the four pillars that guide negotiations, namely; **The Subsidiary Bodies for Implementation and**

Scientific and Technological Advice, and the Ad hoc Working Groups on Long Term Cooperative Action and Kyoto Protocol.

The LDCs view with satisfaction decisions to be presented at this Session by SBI. In fact, these decisions mark the first success of Cancun. We welcome decisions on LDCF, and on Matters relating to the LDCs. The LDCs are the most vulnerable of all groups because, they have the least capacity to adapt. The Group is characterized by scarcity of funds and, very low technology and capacity base. Indeed this is reflected in the Convention, Marrakesh Accords and the Bali Action Plan.

The LDCs note with appreciation that voluntary contributions into the LDCF, increased considerably in the last twelve months. We also recognize the support given to the broad LDC work programme. This support has been financial, technical and diplomatic. I wish to express the gratitude of the LDCs for this support by Member countries. We also wish to register our appreciation to GEF and, its Agencies for the support we continue to receive. UNEP in particular has supported a number of preparatory meetings for the LDCs, and I express, on behalf of the Group, our sincere gratitude to them.

Madam President,

Cancun should approve the establishment of an Adaptation Framework for Implementation, as well as the Adaptation Committee with a view to enhancing action on adaptation. We should also set the path towards deciding on an international mechanism to address Loss and Damage. We stress that the balance ought to be maintained between Adaptation and, Mitigation in the UNFCCC process.

Madam President,

We reiterate our call for the establishment of the new climate change fund under the authority, guidance of, and be accountable to, the COP. In the same breath, we call for the establishment of an Ad hoc Finance Committee to commence and spearhead the process of operationalizing the said Fund. However, this effort will be hollow without financial commitments from developed country parties.

Madam President,

There is an urgent need to establish a Technology Mechanism (TM) that should be under the COP and take into account two components, namely; **Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN).**

Madam President,

There is need to enhance the capacities and capabilities of developing countries to contribute to the achievement of the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention. The LDCs hold the view that capacity building should be treated as a stand-alone item in the UNFCCC process.

The major objective of the AWG-KP is to define ambitious quantified emission reductions for the Annex I Parties for the second and subsequent commitment periods. The LDCs support the objective and spirit of the Kyoto Protocol which commits developed countries to reduce green house gas emissions, by specified amounts. The Group is in favour of implementation of Article 3.9 of Kyoto Protocol which calls for the review of further commitments of developed country Parties under the Kyoto

Protocol, in the subsequent commitment period. We cannot afford and must avoid the gap between first and second commitments. The world must limit global temperature to the maximum of 1.5°C and, green house gases concentration to below 350 parts per million, to avoid irreversible climate system.

Madam President,

The LDC Group believes that at this stage of the UNFCCC process, both the AWG-LCA and AWG-KP should continue their work in 2011 and therefore, the calendar and budget must be accordingly be prepared.

Finally **Madam Chair**, the LDCs are ready to engage in constructive deliberations, and I would like to assure you of the full support of the Group in the proceedings here in Cancun and beyond.

I thank you