STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS OF SOUTH AFRICA, H.E. DR EDNA MOLEWA
COP22/CMP12/CMA1 MARRAKESH, MOROCCO
16 NOVEMBER 2016

Mr. President,

I would like to convey the highest regards of His Excellency President Jacob Zuma and the people of South Africa to His Majesty King Mohammed the Sixth. We express our heartfelt thanks to the Moroccan government and people for their warm hospitality. *Shukran Jazeelan!*

Your Excellency, Minister Salaheddine Mezouar, we congratulate you on your election as President of this Climate Change Conference.

South Africa associates itself with the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, as well as with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the Africa Group

South Africa is proud to count ourselves among the 110 Parties that have ratified the Paris Agreement so far. The Agreement is now in force. This bears testimony to the unwavering commitment and the unified purpose of the international community to combat global climate change.

Like other developing regions, the African countries are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change including increased food and water insecurity, resulting in hunger, poverty and disease.

The writing is on the wall. We have to increase our collective efforts on the basis of science and equity with intensified urgency.

Mr President,

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is an inclusive, fair, comprehensive and balanced framework for the adoption of key implementing agreements such as the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. We stress that the Convention is the core and central basis for ambitious and fair collective climate action.

If we are to achieve our goal of limiting global temperature increase to well below 2 degrees Celsius and successfully meet the 1.5 degree Celsius goal, and the just transition to low-carbon, inclusive, climate resilient economies and societies, we must close ambition gaps and accelerate pre-2020 action.

To this end:

- Firstly, the Kyoto Protocol Doha Amendment should enter into force now;
- Secondly, implementation support for developing countries should be provided. In particular, it is essential to deliver the 100 billion US dollar undertaking for ambitious pre-2020 action; and
- Thirdly, adaptation should be prioritised.

Key to the success of COP22, is to achieve significant technical progress to fully operationalise the Paris Agreement by 2020 and we are heartened to see that work is progressing in most areas.

Ultimately, the Paris Agreement will achieve climate safety globally, owing to its comprehensive coverage of all major challenges, its nationally determined character, its flexibility and its transparency,

This should provide political assurance to all countries, regardless of any shifts that may occur in domestic political constituencies. In the end, we are all in this fight together.

South Africa has the utmost confidence that we will achieve our collective goals under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, as we say in Africa "if you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together": We know that there is no viable alternative to collective multilateral action.

We have indeed come a long way, and it is up to us to stay the course.
I thank you.