ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

STATEMENT

BY

HER EXCELLENCY DR. ISATOU NJIE-SAIDY
THE GAMBIA'S VICE PRESIDENT

ON BEHALF OF HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT JAMMEH

AT THE

JOINT HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

OF THE

TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC (COP 22),

TWELFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP 12) AND THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES OF THE UNFCCC SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT (CMA1)

7th TO 18th NOVEMBER, 2016
MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bring you greetings from all Gambians, particularly, His Excellency The President of the Islamic Republic of The Gambia, Sheikh Professor Alhaji Dr. Yahya A.J. J Jammeh, Babilimansa.

My delegation and I, deeply appreciate the warm welcome, generous hospitality and impressive facilities and courtesies accorded by His Majesty King Muhammed VI and the Government and the people, of the Kingdom of Morocco.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers,

COP-21, and the adoption of the new, universal and legally-binding **Paris Agreement,** to the UNFCCC, marks a milestone, in the history of international climate change negotiations.

In this regard you may wish to note that The Gambia has ratified the Paris Agreement, and the Doha Amendment, to the Kyoto Protocol, on the 5th of October, 2016 and have deposited the instrument of ratification for the Paris Agreement at the UN. By so doing the Gambia proudly joins the member states that have agreed, signed and ratified

the Paris Agreement to date.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Honourable Ministers,

One primary objective of the Paris Agreement is to hold global average temperature rise, to well below 2^{O}C, above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts, to limit the increase to 1.5^{O}C. The Gambia aligns itself with these global efforts and as a country we are encouraged that COP 22 in Marrakech is about Climate action.

However without tangible and meaningful mitigation actions, to limit greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere, adapting to the adverse effects of climate change, will become impossible, particularly, for the most vulnerable countries.

Thus the Gambia calls for and encourages that there be no slow down nor back sliding on the momentum, in global climate change adaptation and mitigation as is crystallized in the Paris Agreement. In this way it is the Gambia's view that the Paris agreement would fulfill and meet the aspirations and well being of all particularly the most vulnerable.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Honourable Ministers,

Thus Gambia welcomes the decisions adopted thus far on adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology transfer, and capacity building relating to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Africa.

Here in Marrakech, as with COP 7 earlier held here, we should ensure

the implementation of the COP 21 decisions, with adequate and tangible support to the LDCs, SIDS, and Africa, through the provision of adequate and reliable finance, capacity building, and technology transfer.

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Honourable Ministers,

My country, The Gambia, as you may know is among the smallest countries in Africa, and its economy, is highly dependent on rain-fed Agriculture and two-thirds of our capital city Banjul, is located 0.5 meters above sea level, hence making The Gambia, vulnerable to unfavorable climate change such as sea-level rise.

Thus our country could be vulnerable to the negative effects of climate change with implications for our economy, tourism sector, food security, resilience, and the lives and livelihoods of coastal as well as rural communities.

As result of its vulnerabilities and as sign of its efforts and commitment to take on the challenges of Climate Change, the Gambia through its 2015 Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), commits to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from key sectors of its economy, by 44.4% in 2025 and 45.4% in 2030.

Furthermore we have as a country finalized, our National Climate Change Policy.

On combating, sea-level rise, and the associated adverse effects manifest in coastal erosion, the Gambia is implementing an LDC, UNDP and GEF project aimed at building the resilience of vulnerable communities both on coastal and inland areas as well.

In addition, the Gambia in its match to ensuring climate change actions in key sectors, is implementing adaptation projects, under its National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA). These include climate change early warning systems, and Coastal Protection and Resilience Building, of Vulnerable Coastal Communities. It also includes community-based sustainable dry land forest management, and adapting agriculture to climate change. With requisite support, we are ready to take on climate change challenges and implement projects, as contained in our National Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA).

The Gambia also recently launched a UNEP supported initiative called EBAFOSA (Eco-System Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly) in order to harmonize food security, water, environmental and climate change policies.

The Gambia is also an active Member States of the Africa Risk Capacity an innovative solutions to address issues associated with the impact of climate change aimed at improving African capacities to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters. Thus the ARC is a key opportunity that we as country encourages other countries to pursue as this approach seeks to help African governments with home grown innovative solutions.

From the foregoing, and having been encouraged by potential for overcoming the challenges of climate change, the Gambia urges all international partners, bilateral and multilateral, to provide full support to LDC countries, in line with the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), for LDCs, thus ensuring low emissions, and climate resilient development.

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Honourable Ministers,

Finally
We look forward to the discussions and launching of the LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative (REEEI), for Sustainable Development.

May Allah SWT continue to protect planet earth, its Flora and Fauna and humanity at large.

I thank you for your attention.