

Closing remarks at CCDA-V, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, October 30, 2015

Hon. Minister Oppah C.Z Muchinguri-Kashiri (MP), Minister of Environment, Water and Climate, Republic of Zimbabwe

Your Excellencies, Hon. Ministers,

Members of the diplomatic Corps

Development partners

Ladies and Gentlemen

We have finally come to the end of this very important Fifth series of the Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference. It has truly been an interactive conference. We are certainly satisfied with outcomes of the Conference in terms of key requirements for Africa's full and effective participation in Paris. Through this conference we have

1. Enhanced understanding of the issues and priorities for Africa which we need to defend resolutely at Paris
2. We have had adequate reflection on the paths of climate change negotiations over the years through the eloquent presentations of our experts and scientists. These presentations have enabled us to have a better appreciation of our achievements, opportunities, challenges and the way forward
3. We have had good and passionate lectures on how Africa should compete in the Paris negotiation, the need for us to remain as one solid block with one vision and one voice
4. The conference has refined and remodeled our expectations from Paris, that there would no magic deals.
5. We have also had the opportunity to take stock of the positive developments in the areas of adaptation and mitigation happening in Africa. These are no small achievements. We need to applaud ourselves for what we have been able to achieve considering our severe limitations on several fronts.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the most important lesson, which has in fact, buttresses our long-standing call of the African Union Commission for Africa to take charge of her development challenges including climate change. This means that African governments must renew their political commitment and provide the necessary human, institutional and financial resources and lead the way in the implementation of their national strategies and plans. We must lead, and then expect the world to come and support our efforts.

On that note, Your excellencies, let me once again take this opportunity to thank the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for hosting this Conference. Madame Honourable Minister, we are truly grateful to your government and people for the hospitality we enjoyed in the last three days.

I also want to thank both the local and national organizing committees here in Victoria Falls and Harare who must have worked very cooperatively with the Africa Climate Policy Center for making this Conference truly successful. Organizing a conference of this magnitude is not an easy task. I congratulate the ACPC secretariat for the accomplishments under the able leadership of Dr. Fatima Denton.

I also want to thank our various experts and scientists, youth representatives, NGOs and private representatives for their willingness and ability to share with their thoughts and experiences. I thank the youths in particular for the dynamism they brought into the discussions. Thanks to your efforts, we are all now adequately informed and prepared for Paris

I also wish to thank UNISDR for the Sendai Framework and for their partnership with the AU on the European-Africa America Pacific Programme Buildign Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa which is closely linked to climate change adaptation.

Allow me to thank the African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa to their strong commitment to the ideal of the ClimDev programme. I would like to reiterate the appreciation of

the African Union Commission to our development partners including the EU for their support to the ClimDev Programme and other similar programmes in Africa.

I would also like to acknowledge the formidable work of the journalists and the media for keeping us informed and letting the world know what is happening here in Victoria Falls. Please keep the flames burning, to create more awareness.

African Union Commission in collaboration with her partners, AfDB, UNECA, NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank and others will continue with her support to our negotiators and African stakeholders for their effective engagement in Paris.

We wish you all very safe travel to your various destinations and hoping to see you in Paris.

Thank you for your kind attention