

**VIDEO MESSAGE BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR ANDRY NIRINA RAJOELINA,
PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY OF
MADAGASCAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE
ON CLIMATE CHANGE
NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentleman,**

Climate change is an undeniable and irreversible scientific phenomenon. As we all know, weather and climate have a great impact on almost all human activities.

In the same way, the consequences of greenhouse gases emissions are unforeseeable, since scientific evaluations which have been carried out so far cannot tackle the problems arising from the climate change, due to its complexity.

On several occasions, we have witnessed how tremendous the damages caused by global warming are. It is, therefore, our duty to act without any further delay.

Besides the fight carried out against the HIV/AIDS and malaria pandemics, the consequences of climate warming undermine development efforts to alleviate poverty and to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although it is said that all human beings are born equal, they are not subject in the same manner to the devastating effects of climate change. Increasing droughts, extreme weather phenomena, tropical storms and rising sea level reaching the most parts of the globe, particularly in Africa, are threats the consequences of which could be catastrophic for future generations.

As far as Madagascar is concerned, it is an island which is very much exposed to natural vulnerabilities. Cyclones constitute over 65% of the incurred catastrophes. Each time it occurs, it affects an average of 250,000 disaster victims and causes 50 million US dollars tolls. We are also subject to floods as well as episodes of droughts.

Thus, in accordance with the “2007 Madrid Action Plan”, we integrated the risk management and the adaptation to climate change in key socio-economic sectors such as agriculture, fishing, water resources, tourism, with a special attention on preventive actions in order to ensure a sustainable socio-economic development.

However, along with developing countries, we do not have the means to access to technologies, to necessary information for the seasonal climate forecasts and to enhance our adaptation skills, especially for our farmers.

Within the framework of the “Durban Vision”, 50% of the income-generated activities by the REDD Project (Reduction of Emissions related to Deforestation and Degradation) can, therefore, be used to finance activities guaranteeing real deforestation reduction and the remaining 50% are allocated to local communities.

All these measures are the result from Madagascar’s subscribed commitments. Accordingly, it is not a matter of lack of political will but rather a lack of efficient means.

I would like to commend the valuable initiative and efforts undertaken by the United Nations, through UNDP and UNEP, as well as other national and international development stakeholders for providing assistance in order to reduce our vulnerability and to strengthen our capacities in several fields through various projects.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that this long-term struggle is not the monopoly of developing countries since the whole planet is involved. All international community members must be mobilized and help each other in order to set limits on the climate change effects.

The countdown for the “Copenhagen Summit”, which is of the utmost importance, has already started. Time is of real essence. Urgent actions must be undertaken. By the end of this year, we are compelled to reach a new and equitable agreement which meets the challenges launched in Kyoto.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your attention.