STATEMENT

BY

AMB. (DR.) AMINA C. MOHAMED

EGH, CBS, CAV, CABINET SECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

HIGH LEVEL SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Friday, April 22, 2016

United Nations, New York
H.E. MR. BAN KI MOON, UN SECRETARY GENERAL,
EXCELLENCIES,
DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Today, on this year’s Earth Day, Kenya joins other Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in signing the historic Paris Agreement on climate change.

Kenya attaches great importance to the Paris Agreement which marks a significant milestone in tackling the environmental challenges that threaten to disrupt the fragile balance that makes our planet hospitable.

Kenya is highly vulnerable to climate variability and change, more particularly because of our dependence on climate sensitive economic sectors, and low adaptive capacity. Climate change costs our economy about 3% of GDP annually.

That’s why, today, Kenya welcomes the universal Paris Agreement that promotes collective action to build a safer and more prosperous world. We are particularly happy, that the Paris Agreement adopted the long-term goal to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to zero in the second half of this century. This provides clear direction and the needed momentum for global action towards a low-carbon future.
Kenya has committed to 30% reduction of greenhouse gases emissions by 2030, relative to Business As Usual scenario, and subject to access to necessary support. We are committed to turning our intended nationally determined commitments (INDCs) into concrete actions integrated into the national development plans, and tracked through the national budget processes.

Already Kenya is a world leader in renewable energy which account for over 70% of our energy mix. We plan to achieve 90% by 2030.

In geothermal energy Kenya is sharing its expertise with countries in Africa and we are ranked 5th in the world. Wind power is also growing rapidly, the largest wind facility in Africa has recently ben inaugurated in Kenya. Kenya is also a leader in solar energy.

As we reaffirm our commitments and sign the Paris Agreement today, it is important to emphasize that the transition to low-carbon development will require fulfillment of the commitments of enhanced support in financing, technology transfer, and capacity building by developed countries, as agreed in Paris.

Such support will be critical for the successful implementation of our intended nationally determined commitments and should not be left to the private sector. Kenya will continue to work with all partners to catalyse efforts to strengthen actions on mitigation and adaptation. Moreover, it is important to note that targets cannot be achieved in isolation.
The sustainable development goals including that of climate change, must be pursued together as one integrated universal whole, if the world is to succeed in its ambitions.

In conclusion, the Government of Kenya would like to assure of our determination to bring the Paris Agreement into force in the shortest possible time. The Agreement will be fast tracked through our domestic processes with a view to achieving ratification as soon as possible.

In the same spirit, we urge all countries to expedite ratification to ensure early entry into force of the Agreement. In the meantime, we must all strive to adhere to the COP21 decision on pre-2020 enhanced climate action pending entry into force of the Agreement. Let’s all walk the talk and implement Paris Agreement to avoid the catastrophic effects of climate change.

I thank you.