I am pleased to announce that the Government of Rwanda will take all necessary steps to ratify the Paris Agreement as soon as possible. We are ready to play our part.

However, to reach the goals set by the agreement, support to developing nations through increased levels of climate finance and technology transfer must be put in place. This will enable robust action in our countries.

Distinguished delegates,

You can count on the commitment and support of Rwanda as we work together to limit global temperature increases to below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

We owe this to future generations who deserve to inherit a planet where they too can achieve their dreams and aspirations.

I thank you.
right direction, we must not be content with today's signing alone. The real work now begins to ratify and match our commitments with action.

For more than a decade, Rwanda has taken a proactive approach and put the environment and climate change at the heart of all we do. We were the first country to ban plastic bags and commit to nationwide landscape restoration and every year, Rwandans plant millions of trees to protect our forests, rivers and wetlands.

In addition, our long-term national development plan, Vision 2020, and our Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy will see Rwanda become a developed, climate resilient and low carbon economy by 2050.

Distinguished delegates,

A key part of achieving this vision is Rwanda's Green Fund – a ground-breaking environment and climate change investment fund and the largest of its kind in Africa.

The fund invests in the best public and private projects that have the potential for transformative change and that support Rwanda's commitment to building a green economy. The fund has mobilised 100 million dollars to date and is a leading example of the impact that well managed climate financing can have.

Excellencies,
• Your Excellency Ban Ki Moon, UN Secretary General
• Excellencies Heads of State and Government
• Honourable Ministers and Heads of Delegation
• Distinguished delegates
• Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased to address this Assembly on behalf of the Republic of Rwanda. At the outset, I would like to add my voice to those who have already spoken to thank the United Nations Secretary-General for organising today’s event.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

The Paris Agreement reaffirms our commitment to combat climate change and provides the framework to build the resilient and sustainable future we want, and that our citizens deserve.

It heralds a new era in the global response to a warming planet and sends the clear message that climate change must be addressed now, it must be addressed by all of us together.

Excellencies,

As one of the most vulnerable nations to climate change, Rwanda is acutely aware of the challenges that lie ahead. And while the Paris Agreement is a historic step in the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Republic of Rwanda

Statement

by

Hon. Louise Mushikiwabo
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

At the UN General Assembly

New York, 22 April, 2016