Mr President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to congratulate you for convening this historic event and all the Nations that signed The Paris Agreement on behalf of my President, H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, who could not be here with us today due to commitments at home related to the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

The Republic of South Sudan would like to associate itself with the statements made by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the Least Developed Countries and the G77+ China.

We would like to stress that the implementation of The Paris Agreement is not going to be easy. Therefore, all Parties, especially the developed countries, need to exert maximal efforts to implement the provisions related to mitigation. More importantly, we expect the developed counties to develop and implement economy-wide mitigation strategies. This is vitally important to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr President, you know very well that the developing countries cannot do their part without significant, predictable and additional finances from the developed countries. This is crucial for the developing countries to implement the provisions related to adaptation, capacity building and training, technology development and transfer, and, where environmental disasters happen, loss and damage. The developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries, cannot be expected to foot the bill for their climate action.

The Republic of South Sudan, though it is the youngest nation, has already submitted its National Climate Action Plan. This document has been approved by the Council of Ministers recently. We stand ready to implement it provided the necessary finances are availed to us. We are ready to ratify the Agreement. And we are ready to do our part to ensure full implementation of The Paris Agreement.

In conclusion, climate change is the biggest environmental threat to the human race and planet earth. Failure to act now will have very serious and irreversible consequences. In this regard, finances should not be the obstacle to tackling climate change. We must be prepared to pay money for climate action—or we will continue to pay with our lives. We must demonstrate ambition, political will and iron determination to tackle climate change.

Thank you.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of South Sudan to the United Nations
New York

Statement by H.E. Deng Deng Hoc Yai
Minister Of Environment
Republic of South Sudan
Delivered at the Signing Ceremony of The Paris Agreement, the UN General Assembly, New York, USA, 22 April 2016

“Check against delivery”