Mr. President,

In conclusion, I wish to underscore the seriousness of the effects of climate change and the urgent need to take effective concerted global action to address them. Any piecemeal or selective approach will neither secure nor guarantee a safer planet for the present and future generations. It will not respond to the plight of the most vulnerable communities in poor countries who are yearning for salvation from extinction. These groups must be supported to survive, prosper and spur socio-economic transformation without leaving any one behind.

Mr. President,

I thank you for your kind attention.
commitment to implementing the various relevant measures and actions; as spelt-out in the Agreement.

Mr. President,

Despite all these on-going efforts, African countries are confronted with some real challenges in terms of financing the various climate change priorities; strengthening institutional and human capacities; and accessing the vital technologies critical for climate change mitigation and adaptation. In this regard, we urge developed countries to support us in addressing these challenges; consistent with the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. We believe that such support can contribute to significant gains in investments in green economy; restoration of degraded ecosystems and strengthening of community resilience to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks.

Mr. President,

Uganda has taken a number of actions consistent with the said Agreement. Climate change issues have been integrated into “Uganda Vision 2040”; and the Second National Development Plan (FY 2015/16-FY 2019/20). Government, has prioritised climate change to be among issues to address over the next five years. In this regard, building a sustainable green economy will form a cornerstone of our policy-action to be undertaken. Climate change measures are also being mainstreamed in various national sectoral policies, plans, programmes and projects. Government is investing in the strengthening institutional capacity to deal with the effects of climate change. It is also committed to mobilising domestic resources, capacities, and skills needed to address climate change. Uganda has initiated the necessary process of ratifying and domesticating the Agreement.
H.E. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly,
Their Excellencies, Heads of State and Government,
H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured and privileged to convey warm fraternal greetings and best wishes from
H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, to Their
Excellencies on this historic occasion of the signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate
Change. H.E the President was desirous of attending this event but is not able to do so
due to other State commitments. H.E the President delegated me to represent him.

Mr. President,
The adoption of the Paris Agreement in December 2015 marked the end of a long process
of diplomatic engagement and jostling over measures to include in the global package for
addressing challenges arising from the effects of climate change. The Paris Agreement
was a major milestone in our determination and commitment to take concrete actions to
address the effects of climate change.

Mr. President,
This Signing Ceremony of the Paris Agreement opens a new chapter in our global efforts
to put into action the undertakings we agreed in Paris. The fact that many countries will
sign this Agreement sends a strong message of our collective resolve and firm
commitment to implement it. All of us must commit ourselves to carrying this bold step
forward by ratifying and eventually domesticating the said Agreement in order to give it
the necessary legal effect under our respective national legislation. We re-affirm our
STATEMENT

BY

H.E. DR. RUHAKANA RUGUNDA

PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

AT

THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL SIGNING CEREMONY

OF

THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

NEW YORK, 22 APRIL 2016.

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