

Message

Of

H.E. Mr. Meles Zenawi

**Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and
Chairperson of the Conference of African Heads of State and
Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC)**

At

The Africa Day Symposium

“Environment: Challenges for Africa, the Role of Japan”

26th of May 2010

**United Nations University,
Tokyo**

I quote

“His Imperial Highness,

H.E. Ms. Chinami Nishimura, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs,

Prof. Konrad Osterwalder, Rector of the United Nations University

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish that I could have been with you during this Africa Day Symposium to address you in person. Unfortunately, these are very busy times and I could not come to Japan to join you.

As you know, the historical responsibility for the ongoing global warming and its consequent change in the climate regime of the world is that of the industrialized countries, including Japan. Furthermore, as you also know, all the industrialized countries are found in the higher and thus cooler latitudes of the world. On the other hand, Africa and the Small Island Developing States stand to suffer the most from global warming because they are the poorest of the world. It is, therefore, a question of survival for Africa to unite with the rest of the developing world and pressure the industrialized countries to provide the finance, technology and capacity building that it needs to adapt to the changing climate and to contribute to climate mitigation globally. Because of its high vulnerability, obviously Africa's dictate for survival is adaptation. However, Africa must also continue to contribute its due share to mitigation. Moreover, I do not need to point out to you that enhanced global mitigation makes Africa's adaptation easier.

Africa has extensive forests that are already globally contributing to mitigation substantially. With improved management, they can contribute even more. Africa also has the most extensive area in the world that can be reforested. The reduction of emission from deforestation and forest degradation, or in short REDD, and the increased carbon sequestration through reforestation and forest development will thus continue to become Africa's meaningful contribution to mitigation.

Africa is well endowed with renewable energy resources. These are hydropower, geothermal power, solar power and wind power. It has already started harnessing these resources to run its industrialization process. In this regard, Ethiopia is a case in point. We are working towards having a much more developed economy that will be carbon neutral by 2025. It is towards this end that we have registered our Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions at the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, as have done many other African countries.

I am proud to tell you that Africa is united not only to negotiate with one voice, but also to contribute substantially towards removing this human-induced global warming.

Africa's united voice has had a major impact in the negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009. The request for pledges for both emission reduction and the provision of support to developing countries that I presented to the industrialized countries in Copenhagen has been heeded.

Thus the developed countries including Japan have promised to reduce their emissions so as to keep global warming impacts at below

2°C compared to the pre-industrial revolution level. This is to be reviewed by 2015 to lower the ceiling temperature of 2°C down to 1.5°C. Such a lowering is required especially to spare the very low-lying small island states from being drowned by rising sea levels.

The developed countries of which Japan is an important member have also promised to provide fast start up funding to support the adaptation, technology development and transfer as well as capacity building programmes of developing countries. This will amount to 10 billion dollars each year for the 3 years from 2010 to 2012. From then on, it will increase every year to reach 100 billion by 2020.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

There have previously been financial promises made by industrialized countries that have not been honored. The fact that the Copenhagen Accord was reached to include the creation of the financial architecture makes the fulfillment of these promises more likely. A High Level Panel, Co-chaired by former Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom and myself, has been established to work out the details of the financial architecture. The High Level Panel has had only one meeting so far. Therefore, I am not in a position to inform you of the details of the financial architecture. But I can tell you that the High Level Panel will continue to represent developed and developing countries equally. I can also tell you that its views will feed into the climate change negotiations in Cancun, Mexico later this year.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Copenhagen Conference, though important, was only one chapter in the negotiations for global action for adaptation, mitigation, technology development and transfer, capacity building and financial resources. I am happy to tell you that Africa is continuing to negotiate with one voice facing the rest of the world. This one voice comes from unity. We must and we will continue strengthening our unity. Cancun in 2010 will follow Copenhagen of 2009. We are working united for a global biosphere saving action in Cancun and beyond.

In this connection, I would like to congratulate Japan for its constructive engagement in the climate change negotiations and for its unwavering support to the Copenhagen Accord. As one of the most developed countries, Japan is expected to continue to play an important role in the climate change negotiations and for full and timely implementation of the Accord.

In conclusion, I would like to assure you that Africa will continue united. It has no other choice in this era of globalization. Your respective roles in this required unity is critical. Please do your utmost to contribute your respective duties to unity, primarily African, but also global.

I wish you all a successful symposium.

Unquote.

Meles Zenawi

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Republic of Ethiopia and Chairperson of the
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