

Statement of H.E. Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. The sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters

Nairobi, Kenya

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman, Distinguished Guests, All Protocols Observed,

It is an honour and privilege to address the 6th Session of the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi today.

From the outset, I want to express my gratitude to the Kenyan government for their warm welcome, hospitality and successful facilitation of this vital UNEA-6 assembly. Equally, I recognize the great effort of the Bureau of UNEA-6, in ensuring the success of this assembly over the last 2 years under the leadership of the brotherly Kingdom of Morocco. Thank you.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

Climate Change is an existential threat which we must all face together or perish as a human race. Therefore, the UNEA-6 theme of “**effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution**” could not be timelier and more relevant. Across the world, we are witnessing rising temperatures, more droughts, floods, melting ice-caps and the disruption of human life in every continent. We cannot go on like this.

Whether it is the food insecurity facing hundreds of millions of people, rising pollution-related chronic illnesses, destroyed homes and livelihoods in the most climate vulnerable communities in developing States or the rapid pace of global urbanization, the only realistic way to address them all is through effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle **climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.**

In Somalia, we are on the front line of climate change and our government is working tirelessly to address the enormous challenges we face in **mitigating and adapting to the new painful reality.** As a country, we are witnessing rising temperatures and have just come out of a 4-year drought with the climate induced humanitarian situation still stubbornly persisting.

Looking forward, it is predicted that extreme weather events like droughts and floods will increase **having disproportionate impact on our people's lives, livelihoods, infrastructure, land degradation, biodiversity loss and food security.**

Accordingly, for us in Somalia, I would strongly argue that we have passed the point of **Climate Crisis** and are now in the **Climate Emergency** stage. **Given this agonizing reality,** we need the support of all our international partners to take immediate action to address these **effectively and quickly.**

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

I am glad to inform you that having established Somalia's first Ministry of Environment and Climate Change in the year of 2022, our government is in the process of finalizing the remaining few policy and legal frameworks to safeguard our environment. Key among these is the new Environmental Protection and Management Law which our government ratified last week. This legislation is fundamental in informing our environmental responses to the **existential challenges** we face at this critical time in a determined and systemic manner including **biodiversity loss and pollution.**

Furthermore, **we are banning the importation, trade, and use of plastic bags from the end of June this year.** This is certainly a game-changing action which will protect our people and environment from plastic pollution.

Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution must include sincere action on climate financing. **Without available, accessible and affordable financing, most of the developing states like Somalia cannot meet their vast and most pressing adaptation and mitigation requirements and priorities.**

Our National Determined Contributions (NDC) reflects our commitment to addressing climate change through a comprehensive framework that prioritizes both mitigation and adaptation strategies. **The total cost of implementing these strategies is estimated to be more than \$15 billion through 2030,** which underscores the scale of investment required to meet the targets set by Somalia, to meet our adaptation and mitigation targets.

This is more than we raise in domestic revenue or are able to borrow from vertical and multilateral funds or the private finance markets. Given the difficulty for access to climate financing, the international climate financing architecture is not serving our needs and is not fit for purpose.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

There is a huge mismatch between available climate financing and the emergency situations most of the world's affected states, especially fragile countries like Somalia, are in.

Accordingly, there must be equity in global access and resource mobilization to ensure that all nations are able to respond to their climate crises equally for the benefit of humanity. Additionally, there must be more burden sharing between the developed and developing world in this matter, in the spirit of multilateralism and common development to achieve **Sustainable Development even beyond the 2030 UN aspiration.**

Better managing and protecting Somalia's environment, as our government is committed to, will ensure that our vast natural resources including our ocean, fertile lands and livestock can translate to Green energy, jobs and growth for the benefit of our people and the wider Horn of Africa region.

We are currently working on **Bankable and investment ready projects** to attract climate financing and investors and are hopeful that this will help our government raise more domestic resources to effectively finance our national mitigation and adaptation needs on a permanent basis in line with our national Climate Financing Strategy.

In conclusion, I am confident that we, as a community of nations, are awake to the existential threat that climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution pose to our very existence.

Its destructive evidence is all around us. However, we are still lagging behind when it comes to taking effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle them. Whether it be accessing climate financing, knowledge sharing, or cooperation on specific international climate protection measures like banning plastic bags and systematically punishing those that dump chemical waste in our oceans.

We need to be more united as community nations and international institutions. More than ever, our collective survival depends on this

I thank you all,