

**STATEMENT DELIVERED DURING THE 49ND SESSION
OF THE CFS ON MONITORING EVENT – CFS
RECOMMENDATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND
WATER BY THE CHAIR AFRICAN REGION GROUP H.E
JACKLINE YONGA, AMBASSADOR / PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. I have the **honour** to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Region Group
2. Chair, it is widely acknowledged that **Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change** and the least equipped to cope. These challenges include land degradation, deforestation, biodiversity loss, and other climate-related vulnerabilities. "
3. Chair, the risks of climate change on **agricultural production, food security, water resources and ecosystem services** will likely have increasingly severe consequences on lives and sustainable development prospects in Africa.
4. This phenomena of climate change has affected the **ecosystem, human health, infrastructure food, and water**. Which has led to displacement of many people **and increased migration**
5. Therefore managing this risk requires an **integration of mitigation and adaptation strategies** in the management of ecosystem goods and services, as well as the agricultural production systems in Africa.
6. The unfortunate scenario of elongated and **heightened droughts** in Eastern Africa; exceptional floods in Western Africa; reduction of rainforests in equatorial Africa; and a

rise in ocean acidity across Africa's southern coast coupled with altered weather patterns and climate events threaten agricultural production and food security, which weakens African's capacity to grow and develop.

7. Generally in Africa agricultural systems heavily rely on **rain-fed subsistence farming and low adoption of climate smart agricultural practices** which contribute to the sector's high levels of vulnerability.
8. Chair, there is urgent need for **gender-sensitive and participatory approaches** that enable women to gain equitable access to land use, information, and resources when addressing food security in the context of climate change
9. Equally important is the **role of youth** in protecting and improving the environment. A number of youth are taking action on climate change mitigation and adaptation through diverse initiatives which include educational **campaigns, awareness raising and behavioural change campaigns.**
10. Excellencies, we **recognize** the importance to **integrate climate change concerns in food security policies and programmes** and to increase resilience of vulnerable groups and food systems to climate change, emphasizing adaptation to climate change as a major concern and objective for all farmers and food producers, especially small-scale farmers.
11. Chair, we **recognise** the need to invest in the **modernization, improvement and sustainable extension of rainfed and irrigated agricultural systems, and technologies** adapted to local contexts with special attention to those used by smallholder food producers.
12. Excellencies, we urge member states to ensure that their **policies, programmes, actions and strategies are fully consistent with existing international obligations,** including food security related commitments.

13. Chair, **we support the CFS policy recommendations** on increased awareness among institutional representatives and decision-makers on the importance of the sustainable use of natural resources to ensure the right to food while at the same time preserving the ecosystems.
14. We call upon the **mainstreaming** of The CFS policy recommendations into policies, projects and programmes. For this to happen, there is a need **to sensitize** member countries, development partners and the private sector to integrate the CFS recommendations in their work/interventions.
15. As I conclude, for Africa to achieve sustainable development in the face of the grave threat of global climate change, it is vital to increase **funding**, integrate more local perspectives into the policy making process, and demand greater accountability from companies that heavily pollute.

Thank you and back to you