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**Speech for Her Excellency the Chairperson of the African Union
Commission**

Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma

**represented by H.E. Dr Elham Mahmoud Ahmed, Commissioner for
Infrastructure and Energy**

on Africa Day High Level Meeting

with the theme:

**“Moving from Commitment to Action with Nationally Determined
Contributions (NDCs) in Africa”**

and

“The Africa Renewable Energy Initiative: Moving Forward”

Marrakech, Morocco

16 November, 2016 at 11:00 am

- ◆ **Your Excellency Professor Alpha Conde, President of the Republic of Guinea and Africa Union Coordinator on Renewable Energy for the African continent**
- ◆ **Honorable Excellencies Heads of State and Government here present**
- ◆ **Your Excellency, Prof. Khaled Fahmy, Minister of Environment of Egypt and President of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN)**
- ◆ **Excellencies Ministers and Ambassadors here present**
- ◆ **Distinguished guests Ladies and Gentlemen;**

All Protocol Observed

1. On behalf of the African Union Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, and on my own behalf it is my honour to welcome you all, your excellencies, to the Africa Day.. I would like to thank the team from African Development Bank, Economic Commission for Africa, NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency and the African Union Commission and our partners who worked tirelessly to make this event happen.

2. I would also like to use this opportunity to thank his majesty the King of Morocco and his people and government for organising this splendid African COP22 with all the hospitality around it.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

3. Climate change is having adverse impacts on Africa as exemplified by the disappearance of Lake Chad in Central Africa and the recent drastic drop in water levels in the Kariba Dam in Southern Africa affecting the lives, livelihoods and eco-systems of our beloved continent.

4. Excellencies, in addressing the global challenges of Climate Change as we are aware the African leaders in their wisdom established the Committee of Africa Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC). Permit me at this juncture to applaud the leadership of all our negotiators at the three tiers, CAHOSCC, African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) and African Group of Negotiators on Climate Change (AGN for the diligence demonstrated that has led to the achievements of COP 21 in Paris as Africa set the pace in the global

negotiations. I would further like to recognize their tireless efforts in the negotiations here in Marrakesh.

5. The Paris Agreement of last year has marked an era where all parties agreed to contribute something to fight against climate change. In Africa nearly all countries submitted their **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)**, most of which prominently feature adaptation and mitigation aspects.

6. The INDCs are now transitioning to **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** which we are now converting into action for Africa's development as illustrated by many African member states during this COP22. This clearly shows that Africa is increasingly mainstreaming and prioritizing climate change into its development strategies.

7. We have the **Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)** that seeks to add 10 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2020 and to achieve at least 300 GW of new Renewable Energy generation capacity by 2030. It provides a platform for improving sustainable energy access in a

transformative way to accelerate and scale up the harnessing of the continent's huge renewable energy potential.

8. The various initiatives fit very well into our **African Union Agenda 2063 where we want to have a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth** and commits Africa to pursue a sustainable development path where climate resilient programs plays a major role while we protect our natural environment through renewable energy and clean technologies. Africa is developing its people-centred governance structures, agricultural systems, and energy infrastructure at national, regional, and continental levels.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

9. At the level of the African Union and the Commission issues of Climate Change are taken very seriously as demonstrated by various continental initiatives that include the Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and Sahel region, the CAADP, MESA, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and the NDCs.

10. It is time we mobilise more domestic resources and financing for implementation on the ground so that all African Member States can quickly reap the benefits from these Initiatives.

11. I believe that in Africa, the time for more serious action in the implementation of the Paris Agreement has come. As African Union Commission, we would like to assure you that we will do our best to support the development of our continent, in cooperation with all our partners.

Thank you for your kind attention.