Eritrean Delegation Statement – by H.E Mr. Tesfai G. Sebhatu Minister of Land, Water and Environment – At COP 31, Antalya, Turkiye, 9-20 November 2026



Hon. COP 31st President

Excellences heads of delegation

Esteemed COP 31st participants

Ladies and gentlemen;

First, allow me to thank the people and Government of Türkiye for their warm hospitality to my delegation and for hosting COP 31 in such excellent facilities.

I also congratulate you on your election to serve as COP 31 president.

COP 31 is convening at a very critical global climatic juncture. Global temperature rise and intensified El Nino effects experienced during the outgoing year are worse than what have been recorded in any of the past 11 consecutive years, which are known to have been the hottest years.

Unchecked reckless human activities are still driving our planet Earth into an irreversible climate crisis. Failure to correct past and present mistakes is unsettling and historically unpardonable

In this regard, my delegation representing Eritrea, a country in the Horn of Africa – a region hard hit by climate change, is among those better placed to give

firsthand account on the menace that climate change can cascade on the livelihoods of tens of millions of people.

Mr. President,

Excellences heads of delegation,

Ladies and gentlemen!

In a bid to cope with the changing climate, my country has embarked on adaptation strategy. Under this non-optional strategy, programs that involve intensive nature-based solutions have been underway towards enhancing resilience of communities.

Soil and water conservation, including construction of medium and micro-dams, ((more than 800 built), development of potable water supply systems equipped with solar pumps in rural communities, expansion of marine and terrestrial protected areas and planting trees are some of our success stories worth mentioning.

Yet, we are fully aware that our fragile and dire environment requires more investment and tenacious generational commitment.

Energy shortage is another major problem that stands on our developmental endeavors. The recent war in the Middle East, an immediate neighbor of our region**,** has been consequential in aggravating the challenge.

In an attempt to alleviate the energy problem, we have been able to integrate this year, 30 MW of electric power generated in a recently installed mini solar power plant, to the existing grid.

From the very modest investment made in the stated solar power plant and other standalone mini solar plants, we have learned an important practical lesson on the immense potential available for us to turn the scorching Sun light into a blessing. Scaling up the benefits of the potential is, of course, a matter of financing and capacity building.

In compliance with requirements under the Convention and subsequent decisions passed in COPs, Eritrea has submitted its 3rd Generation of NDC that declares its ambitious climate action commitment.

My delegation reiterates Eritrea's unflinching commitment to UNFCCC. Its fundamental tenets make it an important platform around which all parties ought to rally to save planet Earth from the lurking climate menace. Indeed, the Convention as such is undoubtedly one of the great achievements of our generation. The hard work exerted in all COPs is indeed notable.

Nonetheless, the tragic absurdity of the prevalent world order, that allows billions of dollars to be squandered for conducting wars that inflict unbearable suffering on innocent people, but at the same time fails to give due and primary attention to the life-threatening climate crisis that we have been grappling with, is very unsettling.

The sluggish process of the whole climate negotiations, delays and sometimes backslidings from pledged commitments, most of which are not even commensurate with the gravity of the challenges and with the solutions recommended by science is hard to accept.

Unless one does not wish to be untruthful to their conscience, it is difficult to fathom what we have been witnessing. More than frustration, this is impelling us to raise fundamental questions of trust and hope in the whole process.

In the event and for the sake of the hundreds of millions who are already suffering from climate related plight; and, for the sake of future generations; my delegation urges all parties, and particularly the parties whose input can make a difference, to raise their commitment in order to make COP 31 in Antalya an event where dialogue translates into action.

I thank you all for your attention