



**STATEMENT BY THE RIGHT HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER OF THE  
KINGDOM OF ESWATINI MR. RUSSELL MMISO DLAMINI AT THE COP 29**

YOUR EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT ILHAM ALIYEV, PRESIDENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

YOUR EXCELLENCY, MUKHTAR BABAYEV, PRESIDENT OF THE 29TH  
CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT  
YOUR EXCELLENCY, ANTONIO GUTERRES, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS

MR. SIMON STIELL, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNFCCC  
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES, COLLEAGUES

I AM HONORED TO DELIVER THIS STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF HIS  
MAJESTY KING MSWATI III, HEAD OF STATE OF THE KINGDOM OF  
ESWATINI.

A YEAR AGO IN DUBAI, MULTIPLE LEADERS STOOD ON THIS PLATFORM,  
URGING IMMEDIATE ACTION TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE. SINCE THEN,  
OUR COUNTRIES, ESWATINI INCLUDED, HAVE ENDURED SEVERE

CLIMATE-INDUCED EVENTS. IN OUR CASE, THESE HAVE RANGED FROM DESTRUCTIVE HAILSTORMS TO LATE-SEASON DROUGHTS THAT HAVE UPENDED LIVELIHOODS, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE, A KEY SECTOR FOR THE PEOPLE OF ESWATINI.

EXCELLENCIES, IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT WE ARE AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE. THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION WARNS OF AN 80% CHANCE THAT GLOBAL TEMPERATURES WILL EXCEED 1.5°C ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVELS WITHIN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS—A CATASTROPHIC MILESTONE. MEANWHILE, THE UNEP ADAPTATION GAP REPORT HIGHLIGHTS AN ADAPTATION COST GAP PROJECTED TO REACH UP TO \$340 BILLION BY 2030.

AFTER 30 YEARS, THE QUESTION WE FACE IS STARK: HAVE WE FAILED? WE MUST SEIZE WHAT MAY BE OUR LAST OPPORTUNITY. AS ALEXANDER THE GREAT SAID, “UPON THE CONDUCT OF EACH DEPENDS THE FATE OF ALL.” WE MUST STRENGTHEN BOTH OUR COMMITMENTS AND OUR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO TACKLE THIS GLOBAL CRISIS.

THE RECENT UN SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE CALLED FOR UNITY TO SAFEGUARD OUR PLANET. COOPERATION MUST GENUINELY ADDRESS MITIGATION WITHOUT PLACING UNDUE BURDEN ON POORER NATIONS

OR SACRIFICING NATURE. EQUITABLE SOLUTIONS FOR ALL PEOPLE, PROFITS, AND OUR PLANET ARE IMPERATIVE.

MEANINGFUL ACTION ALSO DEMANDS THAT NO COUNTRY BE LEFT BEHIND. IN THIS REGARD, WE URGE THE INCLUSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) IN OUR COLLECTIVE CLIMATE RESPONSE TO LEVERAGE THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS.

EFFECTIVE CLIMATE FINANCE REMAINS ESSENTIAL, YET ACCESSING THESE FUNDS IS OVERLY COMPLEX FOR DEVELOPING NATIONS LIKE ESWATINI. WE FACE FREQUENT CLIMATE-INDUCED DISASTERS, COMPOUNDED BY FINANCIAL BARRIERS THAT REVERSE DEVELOPMENT GAINS. DISASTER RELIEF AND CLIMATE FINANCE MUST BE STREAMLINED AND EXPANDED, WITH A FOCUS ON ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, AND JUST TRANSITIONS.

AS WE FINALIZE OUR NDC 3.0, LET US NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE ULTIMATE GOAL. DEVELOPED NATIONS MUST CONTINUE TO LEAD AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE. TOGETHER, WE MUST COMMIT TO A WORLD WHERE FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL LOOK BACK ON THIS MOMENT AS THE TURNING POINT TOWARD A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE PLANET.