His Excellency Mr Marcin Korolec, COP19/CMP9 President; His Excellency Mr Manuel Vidal, President designate of COP20/CMP10; Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC Ms Christiana Figueres; Ministers present here today; Heads of Delegations; and distinguished ladies and gentlemen greeting to you all.

We have been listening with interest to the presentations this morning and Ministers’ interventions on increased ambition of Kyoto Protocol commitments and it gives me great pleasure to participate in this high-level ministerial round table.

We are here today in the hope that we can together address the “emissions gap” in 2020, between what we need, and what is currently committed.

I wish to emphasise that what matters to us from Africa is the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted and that this process actually result in real in emissions reductions. So we call on those Parties increasing their ambition through this process, to also tell us how their actual emissions, as reflected in their national inventories, will change in 2020 as a result of this increased ambition.

With regard to the status of implementation of the Doha Amendment and how ambition for the second commitment period be increased, it is clear that the current level of ambition is too low, representing less than a 25% reduction from 1990 levels. A significant increase will be required, of the order of 10-20% of average emissions reductions. In this regard, we welcome the submissions from Annex I Parties on their ambition levels and on their expected emissions, but note with concern that none of them plan to make use of the mechanism to increase ambition.

In order to make an assessment of the real state of implementation, as well as the ambition gap, it is important to get clarity from developed country Parties to the
of what increase in ambition they would be prepared to consider, and what their resulting emissions over this period is expected to be. Information on the use of offset mechanisms, as well as the use of carried-over assigned amount units (AAUs) in the second commitment period, will greatly assist in determining the real ambition gap.

In respect of the lessons that can be learned from the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, we believe that broad participation and the detailed rules which support the Kyoto Protocol system are crucial to guarantee that countries actually reduce emissions. The Kyoto Protocol has been an outstanding example of a multilateral rules-based system through which a global challenge is addressed collectively. The first commitment has shown that with clear rules in place countries can better account for their actions.

Regarding the status of the ratification of the Doha Amendment, I am pleased to report that South Africa has embarked with its constitutional process for the ratification of the Doha Amendment.

Although we are here to consider the ambition of those committed Annex I countries which have opted to stay within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol, it is however equally important that the commitments of other Annex I countries not participating in the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol are increased to a comparable level.

With regard to those countries that have decided not to be part of the second commitment period, it is sad to note that from that experience we were also taught that some countries can regardless of the multilaterally agreed rules, also opt out of a multilateral agreement when the commitments become too onerous when weighed up against short-term national interest. International agreements on nuclear non-proliferation and counter-terrorism are but two examples that come to mind where many countries, particularly developing countries, make great sacrifices to serve the
determining the ambition gap that remains to be addressed.

Thank you.