

**Statement by the Minister of Environment, Natural Resources
and Physical Development – Sudan in the second session of
the United Nation Environment Assembly 23-27 May 2016**

H.E. The President of the United Nations Environment Assembly

H.E. Ms. Oyun Sanjaasuren, Former President of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director

Ms. Sahle-Work Zewde, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi

H.E. Ms. Judi Wakhungu, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kenya

Excellency's / member states /manger group representatives / guests / Ladies and Gentlemen

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله

Firstly, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed and made an effort to bring this UNEA under the theme “delivering on the 2030 Agenda” a successful event.

International environmental policy and governance issues under 2030 Agenda are diverse, but the selective subjects to be address in UNEA2 are really very important issues in all countries over the world. Starting from ecosystem degradation issue passing through illegal trade in wildlife and pollution ended by week monitoring and management system, is the picture that UNEA2 drew to member states and need very strong dissensions to be adopted by member states and coherent structure to be implemented.

The use and management of the ecosystem in developing countries, requires institutional structures that can effectively facilitate the necessary coordination within and between the different sectors and stakeholders in order to achieve sustainable natural resource use and maintain the balance of the ecosystem. Surely this will be the case when we discuss the issue of ecosystem degradation.

There are many initiatives addressing the root causes of desertification and land degradation, the most severe problem destroyed the ecosystem in *sub-Sahara* countries. These initiatives are expected also to contribute to poverty alleviation in

the long term. The eradication of poverty through improved agricultural production is among Sudan's primary development objectives. Poverty is deeply entrenched in rural areas, home to over 20 million people living on less than US\$1 a day. Sudan's diverse agro-ecological zones and abundant surface water offers the potential to produce a range of crops, as well as livestock. Yet, production remaining consistently quite low due in large part to an agricultural system that is not well adapted to rainfall variability and prolonged drought events. I believe this is the case in the most African countries.

The Wildlife Administration in Sudan has significant partnership with respect to the management and assessment of the Nature Reserves and the status of forest and tree habitats. Villagers living near Nature Reserves have a close association with the fauna and forests based on their way of living which play an important part in their daily lives. But the past few decades have witnessed a major assault on wildlife and their habitats. In northern and central Sudan, the greatest damage has been inflicted by habitat destruction and fragmentation from farming and deforestation and climate change as well. Larger wildlife numbers have essentially disappeared and are now mostly confined to core protected areas and remote desert regions.

Demand driven research needs to be conducted to provide answers to real concerns of people in all countries, including rural people who traditionally have not been able to voice out their research needs for sustainable rural development. Research needs in areas such as wealth creation, production systems dynamics, agricultural intensification through integrated agro-forestry technologies, rationalization and intensification of livestock management models, promotion of small scale aquaculture through stocking of water for fish farming and the development. Promoting science policy in the local, regional and global level will make the above concept resilient.

Excellences

Lastly, as you know Sudan and Namibia proposed a draft resolution regarding combating desertification, land degradation and sustainable management of rangeland which is supported by all African countries in the 6th special session of AMCEN last April in Cairo. As we are going to explain this resolution during the next sessions now, negotiation with the other African countries to accommodate another related areas in the same proposal, we are looking forward to be adopted by member states.

I wish fruitful meeting for you all