

**THIRTY- SEVENTH (37TH) ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION**

**INTERVENTION OF THE HON PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH, PRIME
MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS ON
CLIMATE CHANGE**

Your Excellency Mr Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and Chairperson of the African Union,

Your Excellency Mr William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya,

Your Excellency Mr Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

Heads of State and Government,

Excellencies,

No country is immune from the effect of climate change. However, although our continent is responsible for only 4% of global carbon emissions, it suffers the most from the impact of global warming.

Small Island Developing States like Mauritius are struggling to cope with the climate emergency and increased coastal erosion. Mauritius faces a rise in sea level of 5.6 millimetres annually, almost twice the global average of 3.3 millimetres.

Projected increases in temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns and reduction in water availability are resulting in reduced agricultural productivity and food insecurity. These compounding challenges heighten our inherent vulnerabilities and imperil our sustainable development objectives. Only a few weeks ago, Mauritius was hit by a severe cyclone causing flash flooding and damage across the island.

In order to build resilience, we have implemented adaptation measures such as coastal rehabilitation, mangrove propagation and flood management. We are also working towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% and achieving 60% of energy production from green sources by 2030, and making our island resilient and carbon-neutral by 2070, while meeting our sustainable development goals.

Mauritius welcomes the agreement reached for the operationalisation of the long-awaited *Loss and Damage fund* announced during COP28 and recognizes it as a symbol of global solidarity. ~~in the fight against climate change.~~

While the Fund represents only a part of the broader climate finance challenge, its success will depend on the continued commitment of developed nations and an effective and transparent resource distribution to affected countries in a timely manner.

Before concluding, let me seize this opportunity to welcome the leadership role played by H.E. Mr William Ruto on this priority issue. The Africa Climate Summit was a resounding success. We welcome the Nairobi Declaration which identified a critical agenda for collective action on climate change at the continental and global levels. Mauritius also commends the launching of the Early Warning for All Africa Action Plan during the Nairobi Summit.

I thank you.