



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations – Department of Economic and Social Affairs – and with reference to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (11-20 July 2016), has the honor to attach herewith the statement delivered by the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt under agenda item 3 “*adoption of the ministerial declaration,*” delivered prior to the initiation of the voting process on the said declaration.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations hereby requests that the attached statement be included in the official record of the session.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Secretariat – Department of Economic and Social Affairs – the assurances of its highest consideration.



Secretariat of the United Nations,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

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**High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened under the
auspices of the Economic and Social Council, New York, 11-20 July 2016**

**Statement delivered by the delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt
under Agenda Item 3 (20 July, 2016)**

Mr. President,

Allow me at the outset to express our appreciation for the excellent work carried out by our two co-facilitators, their Excellencies the Permanent Representatives of Peru and Australia on producing the text of the ministerial declaration before us today. We make this statement prior to the vote to explain the following position of the delegation of Egypt.

Egypt is of course a signatory to the Paris Agreement, where we were among the first group of countries to have signed it on the first day of its opening for signature at the special ceremony held at United Nations headquarters on 22 April, 2016. As such, our concern with regard to the language of paragraph 19 of the draft ministerial declaration before us is on a different matter.

Mr. President,

Egypt is concerned with the unbalanced language on climate change in paragraph 19, due to the following:

- primarily, the language in paragraph 19 focuses only on reducing vulnerability and fails to recognize the urgency of addressing the adverse impacts of climate change as a major global challenge;
- secondly, it puts action by all on an equal footing, which is inconsistent with the UNFCCC provisions and principles, particularly equity and CBDR-RC, and indeed inconsistent with the provisions of the Paris Agreement itself which reaffirmed differentiation;
- thirdly, it fails to recognize the link between the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC, as the Paris Agreement itself aims to strengthen the implementation of the UNFCCC.

Bearing in mind these concerns, and despite of them, and in the spirit of Egypt's constructive engagement and flexibility, we will not vote against this paragraph. Nonetheless, we deem that the language of paragraph 19 does not enjoy enough consensus to be considered as agreed language, and should not be used as a basis for future work.

I would like to thank you, and request that this statement be made part of the official record of this session.
