

**Kingdom of Bahrain****Statement by HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa****Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister**

Your Majesties, Highnesses, Excellencies,

Good afternoon.

I would like to join my colleagues in saying a few words on the heinous crimes committed against the city of Paris and its people. We in the Kingdom of Bahrain completely and wholeheartedly condemn these despicable acts. We stand in solidarity with France and support the combined efforts to eliminate the threat of terrorism and violent extremism to the world.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Paris Climate Summit represents a historic opportunity for world leaders to demonstrate resolve and determination in addressing the pressing challenge posed by climate change. No part of the world is sheltered from the effects of a rise in global temperatures; and as a small island developing state, the Kingdom of Bahrain truly understands the importance of adapting to rising sea levels, water scarcity, desertification and biodiversity loss. We support efforts to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius. We look forward to this summit producing an agreement that addresses those challenges and satisfies our shared ambitions.

The global threat of climate change must be addressed in a manner that balances the need to shift to cleaner technologies with the imperative of sustainable development and raising living standards. That is why climate finance and the transfer of know-how and technology remain cornerstones of this partnership that brings together developed and developing nations. Together, we must all live up to our common but differentiated responsibilities toward addressing climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties held in Doha, the Kingdom of Bahrain expressed its readiness to pursue a strategy of economic diversification that offers co-benefits in terms of a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation. We are proud to note that since the year 2000, the share of fossil fuels in real GDP has more than halved, shrinking from 44% to only 20% today. The Kingdom of Bahrain shall continue along the path of diversification in order to transition further into a knowledge-based economy.

The Kingdom of Bahrain has also begun to address market-distorting measures, including subsidies. A six-year plan that scales back subsidies for natural gas has already been put into effect. Similar plans to decouple subsidies from the consumption of electricity, water and fuel are currently being studied. These initiatives are expected to deliver significant efficiencies in the consumption patterns of electricity, water and fossil fuels.

As a result of the increasing scarcity of water in the region, our recourse to water desalination is expected to grow. The Kingdom of Bahrain will develop programs to encourage pioneering research and development of new approaches to the utilization of clean energy in water desalination. We will pursue projects that include industrial heat capture and the harnessing of solar energy to test their viability in powering the desalination plants of the future.

As a further gesture of good will, the Kingdom of Bahrain is pleased to announce its readiness to host, in our capital city Manama, a regional center for the Green Climate Fund to serve West Asia. We believe the Green Climate Fund has an important role to play in bridging funding and support, and hope that it will have the means at its disposal to do so.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As a nation that is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, the Kingdom of Bahrain is pleased to note the submission by party states of their intended nationally determined contributions. It is our hope that the developing nations of the world will receive the means of implementation necessary for them to fulfill their national ambitions. We also hope that policies will be conceived in a manner that minimizes adverse effects on social and economic development.

The valuable progress that we make here may shape the lives of generations to come. Today, we must seize the opportunity to put in place the elements of sustainability that are vital to our continued existence on the planet.

Thank you.