

## **COP18 – H.E. Minister Ali I. Al-Naimi – Opening Statement**

### **Saudi Arabia**

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Custodian of the Holy Mosques, It is an honor for me to stand before you in this historic moment when the meeting is held in the GCC region for the first time.

The Government of Saudi Arabia would like to thank the Qatari government for its great effort in preparation for this conference, which created the opportunity to achieve success and positive decisions for the benefit of all mankind.

Mr. President

This conference is a unique opportunity to strengthen the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol, as well as set the foundation for the future enhancement of the climate change regime after 2020 based on the principles and provisions of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, and in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities

Mr. President,

We have been talking about the urgent need to address climate change for many years. And now, the sustainable development model that we have followed since 1992 gives us a real opportunity to tackle this challenge. We believe that all people, and all governments, share this responsibility and each and every one of us has a role to play, taking into account the need for developed countries to take the lead in this regard, based on their historical responsibility.

But how do we make a difference without harming prospects for sustainable growth and prosperity, particularly in developing economies?

Ladies and gentlemen,

Saudi Arabia believes that advanced technology will provide the answers to these challenges, as it has done for mankind throughout history,

But this will require greater innovation, further collaboration and increased investment.

In terms of our own efforts, Saudi Arabia is striving hard to diversify its economy away from its over-reliance on hydrocarbons. We are making major investments in infrastructure development throughout the Kingdom to raise the resilience of our economy to the adverse impact of response measures.

Saudi Arabia is investing in solar technology, in carbon capture and storage technology, and we are setting challenging aims for increased energy efficiency.

This trend will encourage investment in solar energy technology and technology for carbon capture, utilization and storage, and we are now in the process of developing the appropriate framework for this investment. In addition, we have put ambitious goals for increasing energy efficiency.

Our own efforts in research and technology development are gaining momentum through the piloting of capture technologies from stationary and mobile carbon sources. In addition, creative solutions are being pursued to generate value out of captured carbon and develop cleaner and more efficient petroleum fuels for transportation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Kingdom has placed great emphasis on educating the younger generation about complementary sources of energy - stressing that it is in Saudi Arabia's fundamental, long-term economic interest.

Mr. President,

Saudi Arabia is working with our GCC partners into transferring these efforts as contributions under the convention. We are also discussing with other parties informally on how we can package these efforts under a window that would take into account the nature of our program for economic diversification that currently relies on a limited sector of development.

As a region, I believe the GCC has the will and foresight to help drive advances in research and technology, working together, and with nations around the world.

Because, ultimately, these are global problems which require global cooperation.

Thank you.