

18th COP Meeting on UNFCCC, Doha, Qatar

Meeting of the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the hope that we all agree here to speed up the global

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Head of delegation of Afghanistan

Mr. Chairman, His Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The whole world is gathered here in this beautiful city of DOHA, the capital of Qatar, for the 18th action to have a sustainable life for every one of us living in different parts of this globe.

Allow me Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, my delegation and personally, to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as President of the Eighteenth Conference of Parties and the eighth Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties of the Kyoto protocol and to extend my sincere thanks to the Government of Qatar and the leaders and people of Doha for such an excellent arrangement made to host this 18th COP meeting of UNFCCC. Furthermore, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for the warm welcome and hospitality shown to us and thank the UNFCCC Secretariat for their excellent arrangements.

Mr. Chairman

We associate ourselves with the statements made by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 & China, Swaziland on behalf of the African Group, and Nauru on behalf of Alliance of Small Islands Developing States.

Mr. Chairman,

To the citizen and Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, climate change cannot only be considered as an environmental problem, but also as a significant threat to peace and security, sustainable development and social stability. The majority of Afghans are entirely dependent on agriculture and livestock to meet their livelihood and survival needs.

Climate change will result in dramatic circumstances if local and global measures are not urgently addressed. Drought is likely to be regarded as the norm by 2030, rather than as a temporary or cyclical event. And the climatic shocks have the potential to tip a large percentage of Afghan population who live just above the poverty line into poverty. Climate change effects are also expected to intensify conflicts over natural resource control and management, due to loss in ecosystem productivity.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite of immense challenges in dealing with the on-going conflict, Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan gives highest priority for making the adaptation to the impacts of climate change as an integral part of our national and sectoral development priorities, and meeting our energy demand through renewable and cleaner sources available in Afghanistan and also in the region. I am pleased to highlight some good initiations that Afghanistan has taken this year. The lower house of Parliament has ratified the Kyoto Protocol and we believe that it will enhance our access to all those funds and flexible mechanisms created to support new and innovative adaptation and mitigation measures. It will encourage private sector to go for cleaner technologies, and communities in conservation of forest resources as well as rehabilitation of degraded land in Afghanistan, which is yet to start. We are working in developing the National Climate Change Strategy, National Sustainable Development Strategy, and National Environmental Education Strategy to further enrich our policy framework through climatic lenses.

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of millions of Afghan children, youth, women and senior citizen, highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, I request to all the leaders gathered here to agree on removing the barriers and come up with the simplified procedures and mechanisms to encourage the developing countries and specifically the LDCs to believe that through the commitment made in various forms including Green Climate Fund can be instrumental in preparing us to adapt to the forthcoming climatic hazards.

Let's joint hand for cleaner and greener planet.
Thank you