

**High Level Segment**

**18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP18) to the UN Framework  
Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) & 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the  
Meeting of the Parties (CMP8) to the Kyoto Protocol**

**26 November - 7 December 2012**

**Statement by Pakistan**

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would like to congratulate you and the Government of the State of Qatar for assuming the Presidency of the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

2. I would also like to express my deep gratitude for the hospitality accorded to my delegation and for the excellent arrangements made by your Government.

**Mr. President,**

3. You have assumed the leadership of this important UN Convention amid great urgency in salvaging the deteriorating ecological health of our planet. The melting glaciers in the Arctic and Himalayan regions are ominous signs of our collective inability in halting the global warming due to low level of mitigation commitments.

4. The task before you is of monumental proportions. I am confident that under your able stewardship of this Conference, we can muster collective will to lay firm the foundation of a climate resilient pathway.

5. Pakistan will stand shoulder to shoulder with the brotherly country of Qatar in assisting and discharging this mandate. You can count on our support and cooperation.

**Mr. President,**

6. The 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol represents a turning point in the global climate change regime – one that could shape how global cooperation on climate change will be governed up to and beyond 2020.

7. Unequivocal scientific evidence confirms that global warming is a reality and, if not halted, the door to staying below 2-degree temperature increase could shut permanently and as soon as 2015. Such scenario poses threats to the life and livelihood of billions of people living in the developing world.

8. Like many developing countries, Pakistan is being negatively affected by climate change, undermining its sustainable development prospects. In the past decade alone, nine out of ten extreme events that Pakistan faced carried significant climate change footprints. These included flash floods, cyclones, heat waves, droughts, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods and intrusion of saline seawater into the Indus River Delta Region.

9. The floods of 2011 in the southern part of Pakistan were caused due to excessive precipitation equivalent to five years of rainfall in less than four weeks. Over 9 million people were affected and more than 6 million acres of crop area was damaged. Similarly, the unprecedented floods of 2010 affected more than 20 million people besides financial losses to the tune of US\$ 10 billion. Pakistan's engagement in this process is a national imperative and our quest for a global solution is our necessity.

10. The climatic impacts on other parts of the world are equally visible. Most recently Hurricane and Super Storm Sandy in the Caribbean and the North American continent indicate intensifying climatic activity.

11. Pakistan is particularly concerned that unfolding climate change is impacting the development aspirations of almost all developing countries and threatens the very survival of the Small Island Developing States. It also underscores the need for robust global cooperation especially for countries vulnerable to adverse consequences.

**Mr. President,**

12. Pakistan has constructively contributed to the progress to date in the international negotiations. There is a definitive cause to rejoice at our



achievement. Together, we have reconfigured the institutional arrangements within the UN Framework Convention with a view to managing the adaptation, mitigation and capacity building deficit.

13. We have conceived the Standing Committee on Finance, mandated to ensure coherence in the delivery of climate financing as well as in forging principles and rules that should govern the financing architecture. We are close to operationalizing the much-needed Adaptation Committee and the Technology Mechanism. Above all, the Green Climate Fund has been launched and being hosted in an Asian country – the Republic of Korea.

14. However, we would be misleading ourselves if we were to consider that the institutional reconfiguration alone would salvage the planet and overcome the challenge of climate change as well as the escalating threat from global warming.

**Mr. President,**

15. In a world where a 4-degree Celsius temperature increase may well become an unavoidable reality, this Conference should and can only fast track the much needed agreement to close the emissions reduction gap.

16. In our view, there is no alternative for this Conference than enhancing our collective ability to meet this challenge consistent with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. The success of the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties hinges on reaching a balanced, ambitious, equitable and comprehensive agreed outcome in line with the Bali Road Map as well as good progress under the Durban Platform.

17. Pakistan endorsed the Durban Platform, adopted last year at the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, which in our view represented pragmatic methodologies in forging a long-term cooperative pathway.

18. This balanced set of agreement was based on several critical understandings among the parties, including on the successful closure of two tracks of negotiations: (i) adopting an ambitious and ratifiable Second Commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol; and (ii) reaching an agreed outcome under the Long Term Cooperative Track.

19. One year on, the pledges on emissions reduction and financing promises made by all parties have fallen well short of what is needed to hold

the global temperature rise below 2 degree Celsius and avoid the worst consequences of the global warming.

20. We are now painfully discovering that the Durban package is being unraveled due to: (i) low emissions reduction commitment under the Kyoto Protocol than what the science require; (ii) disregard by the non-Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in deepening their targets; and (iii) rejection of the developing world's proposal to evolve a roadmap on mobilizing the agreed US \$ 100 billion pledge.

21. There should be no doubt that the backtracking by our partners on nearly all aspects of Durban understanding is widening the trust deficit and does not bode well for rapid progress needed to conclude the new instrument, which would replace the Kyoto Protocol in the post 2020 period.

**Mr. President,**

22. Pakistan would like to reiterate that a balanced and ambitious set of outcome at Doha is vital to achieving a robust, participatory, inclusive and universal regime. Such a regime must build on the Bali Plan of Action, Cancun and Durban decisions and comprise the following:

- i. an amendment to Annex-B of the Kyoto Protocol regarding further mitigation commitments of Annex-I Parties for a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol starting on 1 January 2013. To be meaningful, the emissions reduction targets of Annex-I Parties must be sufficiently deep and in line with the requirements in curbing the rising temperatures and should be at least within the range of 25-40 percent below 1990 levels by 2017; and
- ii. a set of balanced outcomes under the Long Term Cooperative Track that provides for:
  - (a) adoption of comparable ambitious emissions reduction targets by Annex-I Parties that are not parties to the Kyoto Protocol;
  - (b) a roadmap for mobilizing US\$ 100 Billion by 2020 with mid term targets to evaluate the progress;



- (c) enhanced provision of financing and technology transfer to upgrade capacity of developing countries to undertake nationally appropriate mitigation;
- (d) removal of barriers to technology support and transfer to be provided to developing countries; and
- (e) establishment of a loss and damage mechanism;

**Mr. President,**

23. Progress in the Durban Platform negotiations is linked to and should build on the outcomes of the Kyoto Protocol and the Long Term Cooperative Track. The outcome of the Durban Platform must be in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention, especially of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities. The work under the Durban Platform at Doha should:

- i. seek to enhance ambition to adequately address the need to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius;
- ii. enhance mitigation action by developing countries for both the pre-2020 and post-2020 period through scaled up means of implementation, including finance, technology and capacity support, from developed to developing countries, under the Convention; and
- iii. discusses the need for an effective compliance regime for all obligations under the Convention.

**Mr. President,**

24. Consistent with our position, Pakistan is ready to undertake measurable, reportable and verifiable national actions to contribute to global mitigation actions subject to provision of necessary finance and technology support. We have also consistently maintained that a broader agreement on MRV framework should distinguish between level of development, level emissions and carbon footprint, vulnerability to climate change and other related factors consistent with the principle of the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.

25. Before I conclude, let me also emphasize the need for an inclusive and party-driven negotiating process that must continue to guide our work in the remaining deliberations. Pakistan would contribute constructively to formal and informal discussions.

I thank You Mr. President.