

## High Level Segment

Statement by Mr. Sajjad Ahmad, Director General (Environment & Climate Change), Climate Change Division, Government of Pakistan at the 20th Conference of the Parties (COP-20) and 9th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP-10), Lima, Peru, **9-11 December 2014**

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**Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me first congratulate you for assuming the Presidency.

I would like to convey our deep appreciation for your government's tremendous efforts while preparing for this conference.

I also take this opportunity to thank the people of Peru for their warm feeling and welcome.

**Mr. President,**

We are at the crossroads and Climate Change is the defining issue of our times.

It not only threatens sustained economic growth and development but intensifies existing political, social, economic and security challenges.

It poses additional stress on our resources and serves as impediment to the whole spectrum of socio-economic development.

Climate Change challenges demand enhanced cooperation among the international community through collaborative efforts.

Developing countries, however, face greater challenges of climate risks, impacts and protracting poverty simultaneously.

**Climate actions should be within the context of our efforts to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.**

Our agreement, therefore, on climate change in 2015 has to be both ambitious and achievable. The developed countries must take lead.

**Mr. President,**

Pakistan's contribution to global warming is very little.

Yet, Pakistan is placed in the category of extremely vulnerable countries by a host of scientific studies and climate change indices.

We are threatened in multiple ways. Climate induced drought, desertification, glacial-melt, sea level rise and recurrent floods, are just to name a few.

Pakistan's 5000 glaciers are in retreat and likely to cause water stress in Pakistan.

The economic losses suffered during the floods of 2010 and 2011 surpassed US\$ 15 billion.

**The floods again hit us this year causing tremendous damages to life and property.**

The recurrence of such climate induced disasters decelerates our efforts to reduce poverty, enhance food security, improve health care, and improve access to energy.

**Mr. President,**

Nationally, we have developed a comprehensive policy and strategy to address Climate Change.

**Given our extreme vulnerability to Climate Change adaptation remains our essential priority.**

We have also adopted a comprehensive approach on disaster risk reduction and management.

Our mitigation efforts cover energy as a high priority followed by transport, town planning, agriculture etc. We are working to change the energy mix on the basis of our meager resources to reduce carbon emissions.

**Mr. President,**

Tackling Climate Change requires corresponding means of implementation in the developing countries. The magnitude of Climate Finance required in this regard, is enormous.

According to various estimates, Pakistan alone will require an additional 10 billion US\$ annually to adapt to climate change impacts. Our mitigation requirements range from 18 billion US\$ in 2014/15 to 45 billion US\$ in 2050.

Enhanced action by developing countries requires enhanced and predictable means of implementation.

Securing and channeling such levels of Climate Finance in the developing world is a major challenge.

The Financial Mechanism of the Convention and its operating entities should be the main vehicle for delivery of support.

The operationalization of Green Climate Fund is a step in right direction. The pledges for initial capitalization of Green Climate Fund are encouraging. These are, however, still far from the commitment of 100 billion dollars a year.

The financial mechanism of the Convention should be made more robust, with new and additional, scaled up and predictable finance. The developed countries must provide a clear roadmap for public climate financing with specific targets, timelines, and sources.

**Mr. President,**

We support working towards an inclusive, robust and participatory regime.

The 2015 Agreement on Climate Change is within reach. It will only be possible if we reaffirm and develop an undivided focus on strengthening the Climate Change Convention at Lima.

The new agreement has to be compressive and be guided by the established principles of the Climate Convention particularly of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

It should holistically cover all aspects including; mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology transfer, in a balanced manner.

The agreement must ensure that mitigation actions by developing countries are supported and enabled by finance, technology and capacity building.

It remains critical that developed countries demonstrate urgency in raising ambitions to close the emission gap.

An arrangement for ensuring transparency of support provided to the developing countries for climate actions is extremely important.

**Mr. President,**

We all need to work together to reach agreement on climate change.

Lima is an important milestone and an historic opportunity.

Pakistan, on its part, is ready to make its contribution.

I thank you.