

Statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Mushaidullah Khan, Minister for  
Climate Change, Government of Pakistan

High Level Segment of COP 23

16 November 2017

Your Excellency, Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, President of  
COP-23,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Madam Executive Secretary,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let me take this opportunity to first congratulate the Government and  
people of Fiji for assuming the presidency of this COP and convey  
our appreciation to the Government of Germany for their support in  
hosting this conference.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work put in by the  
government of Kingdom of Morocco in their capacity as Presidency  
of COP 22, in carrying forward the climate agenda.

Mr. President,

I assure you of Pakistan's fullest support to Fiji's presidency. I am confident that under your able guidance this Asian COP would be a great success.

The recent climate disasters across the globe, sadly, are a stark reminder of the impact of climate induced natural disasters on lives and livelihoods of people. The negative effects of climate change not only undermine socio-economic development, they also reverse the gains made over decades, pushing people back to poverty, hunger and disease.

Mr. President,

Although Pakistan's contribution to global warming is minimal, yet we face huge impact of changes in global climate.

Several scientific studies categorize Pakistan as extremely vulnerable. Recurrent floods, heat waves, cyclones, drought, desertification, glacial-melt and sea level rise are some of our biggest challenges.

The threats of climate related challenges have far-reaching impact on the government's efforts to reduce poverty, enhance food security, improve health care, and improve access to energy. Nationally, we are already incurring 8% of our budgetary resources to address Climate Change, creating extreme pressures on our economy.

Given our Climate Change challenges, adaptation and climate resilient development remain our essential priorities. In this context, we have taken steps both at national and sub-national levels.

We have adopted a comprehensive approach on disaster risk reduction and management and structured policies and institutional arrangements for disasters, mitigation, rescue & relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

We are also working correspondingly hard in bringing about mitigation within the domains of energy, transport, town planning, agriculture etc. Energy sector remains a high priority and we are working on altering the energy mix; develop renewable energy sources and increase the share of nuclear and hydel power to reduce carbon emissions.

Mr. President

In line with our commitment to support global efforts towards Climate Change, Pakistan ratified the Paris Climate Agreement last year and also submitted our instrument of acceptance for Doha Amendment to Kyoto Protocol.

Given that we only have one year to finalize discussions on the implementation of Paris Agreement, we must move from discussions to work on the ground. We need an outcome that will foster greater progress and concrete actions towards enabling environment for implementing climate action in developing countries.

The Talanoa Dialogue, with its spirit of inclusiveness and transparency, would be an ideal and additional platform to unlock further ambition in the Pre 2020 and Post 2020 process. Enhancing ambition, both for the mitigation and for availability of resources, remains critical.

Mr. President,

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

Climate Finance in the developing world must continue to remain a key priority area. The trust and confidence of the process depends on this critical element. Continuous progress, delivering on commitments and a bolder approach to financial contributions are necessary.

For instance in my country, the mitigation has very high potential, but obviously with corresponding resources. Our calculations indicate that US\$40 billion would be required to achieve 20 percent reduction in Green House Gases. Similarly, adaptation to climate change impacts require additional investments of up to US \$14 billion annually.

Again, transparency of support is a very critical aspect and we need to make sure that effective mechanisms are put in place to ensure this.

Mr. President,

Loss and damage needs action including provision of required finances. A robust Warsaw International Mechanism, with tangible outputs, is therefore a must as we return to Poland next year.

Lastly, I conclude by saying that climate does not know borders, political systems or cultural diversity – it is a common threat and a common challenge. We all must act and act collectively and urgently, work together and fulfil our commitments to each other as agreed in the process.

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

I thank you.