

Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
25th Session of Conference of Parties (COP25) of the UNFCCC
Madrid, Spain
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National Statement for COP25 High-level Segment

Mrs. President, Excellencies, Heads of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I have the pleasure to thank COP25 President Ms. Carolina Schmidt Zaldivar, the UNFCCC Secretariat and in particular the Government of the Kingdom of Spain for stepping in and making COP25 happen.

Honourable delegates,

Afghanistan strives to play an active role in implementing climate action and is working towards a low emission development path. To this end, we have already started to integrate climate change and sustainable development in our national development agendas despite the challenging situation we face. Such actions are constrained by the negative consequences of conflict and instability that directly undermine sustainable development efforts. For instance, due to the recent deadly attack that prevented international organizations from attend the first structured GCF policy-level dialogue convened by the National Environmental Protection Agency of Afghanistan on the 25th of November this year. However, the Government of Afghanistan is firmly committed to this matter and with our growing human capital and expertise, we have taken deliberate steps towards climate action. On the legal and policy level, we have completed our Second National Communication and first Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC and have started work on our Third National Communication. We have communicated our Nationally Determined Contributions, supported by formulation of Afghanistan's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, and have initiated the process for revision of our National Adaptation Plan. As part of our recently approved five-years action plan on air pollution, we will reform the public transport system, institute a mandatory tree planting scheme starting in 2021, improve management of coal use as an energy source and increase the supply of clean energy sources such as solar and wind power. All of these actions will serve to reduce Afghanistan's emissions of greenhouse gasses, which are anyway far below the global average on a per capita basis.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Limiting global warming to 1.5°C will necessitate substantial changes to all facets of society across the world. To achieve our common objectives for a resilient and sustainable future, all nations must act boldly and ambitiously, in particular by helping the most vulnerable and least developed countries. Moreover, countries in conflict that are most vulnerable to the climate crisis will require a special measure of support. To accelerate implementation, access to existing mechanisms for climate action needs to be streamlined and simplified. This last point

has been repeatedly highlighted under the long-term climate finance workstream, and is particularly relevant for countries such as ours that struggle with instability and conflict undermining our actions on this global climate emergency. Currently, access to climate finance is painfully slow.

Distinguished delegates,

There are a number of prerequisites without which we fear that the necessary action will not take place. Firstly, we need global consensus on enhanced and ambitious climate action – action which we have to take now. Developed countries need to lead the way in this endeavour, showing how fully industrialised economies can be decarbonised to mitigate future climatic changes.

Secondly, developed country Parties committed through the Cancun Agreements in 2010 to jointly mobilize USD 100 billion per year by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries. Such commitments need to be fully delivered if developing countries are to continue to expand their efforts to limit global climate change and adapt to its impacts. Moreover, I would like to remind you that 2020 is not the end mark – future ambitious commitments need to continue to be made.

Finally, I must reiterate, access to existing mechanisms for climate action needs to be streamlined and simplified if we are to accelerate implementation of low emissions and climate-resilient development pathways.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, I would like to thank all delegates for their participation in COP25. We confirm our Government's strong commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and all further steps needed to limit the long-term global temperature increase to 1.5°C. We join our hands together with those of all other nations to address climate change in unity, for a resilient, sustainable and prosperous future.

Thank you!