



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

National Statement

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At

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In The Name of God The Merciful The Compassionate

**Your Royal Highness,
Honorable Heads of States,
Honorable Prime Ministers,
Mister Secretary General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude to the Government and to the noble and proud people of the Kingdom of Denmark for hosting this august climate change conference – COP15 and CMP5.

Our appreciation is also extended to the United Nations Climate Change Conference Secretariat for their substantive contribution.

It gives me great pleasure to extend the warm wishes of the President and people of Afghanistan to the participants of this historic conference.

Three decades of conflict and violence inflicted a heavy toll on Afghanistan's ability to pursue its potential for economic development and progress. Furthermore, our well-being and security have increasingly come under threat due to rising global temperatures.

Changes to snow and rainfall patterns have led to severe problems of desertification, drought and flooding. Warming temperatures on the Pamir and Hindu Kush ranges are melting our glaciers and with disastrous impact on farming and water availability.

Afghanistan has lost well over seventy two per cent of its once dense forests and over eighty three per cent of its green cover during the past three decades.

Some of our unique medicinal plants have been lost forever.

Our indigenous fauna and flora are under serious threat of extinction.

This catalogue of the adverse consequences of global warming is not unique to Afghanistan. All countries, both rich and poor are experiencing them in various ways.

Global warming is impacting our planet much faster than efforts to address it. Unless we collectively commit to long-term strategies that would combat the rise in global temperature, the consequences for our planet could be catastrophic.

It is my sincere hope that the participants of the Copenhagen Conference will demonstrate the strength of will to move the international climate change negotiations towards greater commitments to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming; to combat global deforestation; and to provide developing countries with financial support and access to technology that would enable them to protect themselves against the adverse impact of global warming.

Today, the peoples of the world are looking to the nations represented at the Copenhagen Conference to rise above national economic interests and commit to actions for the common good of our planet.

I am confident that our deliberations will result in an agreement to set the world on a path closer to solving global warming, and to ensuring the wellbeing of future generations.

Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan calls upon the International Community to kindly adopt the following points:

- **Afghanistan acknowledges that a range of funding sources is available to address climate change threats for developing countries. However, a significant funding deficit still remains (estimated to be an 80% deficit of the actual needs). This funding gap is expected to grow particularly as regards to adaptation and technology transfer areas, if *ad-hoc* funding policies and mechanisms are not urgently implemented. In Afghanistan, adaptation costs of climate change are estimated to be approximately 1.5 billion/ year. This conservative estimate is likely**

to increase as better climate change estimation and studies are developed. Afghanistan will not be able to meet this financial demand without flexible and accessible international funding support.

- As indicated by recent reports, failure to achieve changes in investment and financial flows for climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes will lead to unsustainable development and ineffective paths for the next 20-30 years. This undesirable scenario will lead to less effective and limited programmes. New financing policies for climate change are needed both in developed and developing countries. With appropriate policies and/or incentives, a substantial part of the additional investment and financial flows needed could be covered by the currently available sources.
- Failing to address climate change threats for least developed countries, such as Afghanistan, will result in dramatic environmental, security, economic and social consequences, including significant humanitarian crises. Peace and stability in Afghanistan are also directly linked to successfully meeting climate change challenges. Afghanistan is facing exceptional technical and financial tasks to address these challenges. Afghanistan has begun its climate change adaptation and mitigation strategy. However, Afghanistan requires significant and committed international support for technology transfer and financing mechanisms to successfully meet the climate change threats it faces.
- The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan welcomes the commitment by all the Parties for the successful outcome of this conference. However, the Afghan Government insists on Parties to find practical and urgent solutions for developing countries that are systematically facing the unbalanced and dramatic effects of climate change on the welfare of their own people.

- In relation to climate change adaptation, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:
 1. **Calls** on Parties to establish a friendlier climate change adaptation network of best practices for developing countries in the Asian continent;
 2. **Calls** on Parties to ensure that start-up funding for adaptation actions in developing countries be made available at Copenhagen to address the most urgent adaptation needs, especially for least developed countries. Start-up funding of some USD 5 billion would be hugely beneficial for this purpose;
 3. **Urges** Parties to increase and sustain financial and technical assistance to implement CC adaptation projects in developing countries, especially least developed countries;
 4. **Urges** Parties to financially and technically support the establishment of long-term (10-20 years) climate change adaptation programmes in developing countries, rather than supporting shorter initiatives.
 5. In relation to mitigation for climate change, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:
 6. **Calls** on Parties to urgently plan and promptly implement policies and measures for mitigation, with special attention to land use, land use change, forestry, agriculture, livestock, and from the energy, transportation and urban and industrial sectors of their economies;
 7. **Calls** on Parties to develop and periodically submit national reports containing information on the greenhouse gas emissions of that Party, and describing the steps it has taken and plans to take to implement the Convention;

8. **Urges** Parties to explore financing mechanisms for technologies that will reduce emissions while not having adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods;

9. **Urges** deep emission cuts (50%) by industrialized countries by 2012.

- In relation to financing mechanisms for climate change, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

1. **Calls** on Parties to technically support least developing countries for better funding-management capacities, and to scale up international and public capital dedicated to climate-friendly and climate-proof investments for least developed countries;
2. **Calls** on Parties to optimize the available funds' allocation by spreading the risks across private and public investors, for example by providing incentives for private investment in the early deployment of new technologies in least developed countries;
3. **Calls** on Parties for strong leadership to secure and manage the available and pledged financial resources for better implementation efficiency in developing countries;
4. **Urges** Parties to implement more flexible, accessible and ad-hoc financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in developing countries;

- In relation to this Conference of Parties, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:
 1. **Calls** on Parties to conclude negotiations on an effective, comprehensive and equitable climate change regime beyond 2012 in line with the ultimate objective of this Conference of Parties,
 2. **Calls** on Parties to conclude negotiations on an effective, comprehensive and equitable climate change regime beyond 2012 in line with the ultimate objective of this Conference of Parties, so to ensure that there is no gap between the first and second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol;
 3. **Calls** on Parties to strengthen and increase technical support to developing and especially least developed countries for climate change as a humanitarian threat;
 4. **Urges** Parties to implement more flexible and accessible financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities in developing countries, especially least developed countries, as a mean of compensation for their relative and disproportionate climate change contribution;
 5. **Urges** Parties to adopt emission reduction targets post-2012 that will reduce the risk of global average temperature exceeding 2°C above pre-industrial levels by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sources at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2050.

For the ashes of our fathers and the children of our sons, let us unite and save our only home – this planet that we lovingly call Mother Earth.

Thank you for your kind attention.