



د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت د چاپیریال ساتنې ملي اداره
جمهوری اسلامی افغانستان اداره ملی حفاظت محیط زیست

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

National Environmental Protection Agency



Statement

Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Presented by

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To the

The joint High level Segment of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the Parties of the Climate Change Convention and The Sixth Session of the Conference of the Parties Serving as a Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP17/CMP7)

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Madam President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I would like to congratulate the Republic of South Africa on your election to the post of president of the Conference of the Parties, and convey my deepest gratitude for all your efforts and your people for their warm hospitality in Durban. It is our sincere hope that under your capable and dynamic leadership, the global community will make strides towards achieving the objectives of the convention. On behalf of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, I assure you of our full commitment to the agreed upon principles and active participation in the global efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change. Afghanistan affiliates itself with statements made by Argentina on behalf of G-77 and China and the Gambia on behalf of the LDCs.

Madam President,

Despite the ongoing conflict in my country, the Government of Afghanistan has integrated mitigation and adaptation programs within its development strategies. Afghanistan has stepped up to alleviate poverty, develop National Biodiversity Support Program, NAPA, NCSA, building adaptation capacity and resilience to climate change, enabling activities for NAPA, GHG inventory, and development of renewable energy in urban areas to reduce emissions. Our initiatives for public awareness for climate change adaptation through religious scholars has had positive feedback that needs to be strengthen. With all these, my country is experiencing the impacts of climate change through increased flooding and severe droughts, which threaten the lives and livelihoods of our people, particularly the rural poor. The impacts of climate change result in greater insecurity and instability, backsliding on our hard-won progress towards peace.

We were very much encouraged by the agreement reached in Cancun, including the Green Climate Fund, Technology Mechanism and Adaptation Committee, which help developing countries respond to climate change. The operational modalities that we develop here in Durban will add resources to quicken the pace and expand the scope of environmentally-sound technology development and transfer, all while building national capacity to design and implement adaptation measures to tackle the adverse socio-economic impacts of climate change in Afghanistan. I am very hopeful these initiatives

will further enhance the regional coordination and cooperation in dealing the climate change. We encourage countries to take strong actions and make firm commitments to fight climate change as our security, health, and future generations depend on the decisions made here.

Madam President,

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, as a highly vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change, firmly believes that to limit the global average temperature increases to below 2 degree Celsius, agreed by all of us in Cancun, we have to reach an agreement here in Durban to the realistic targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

It is critical for our country, which is already hot and dry and suffering from global warming, that all governments need to acknowledge the 6 to 11 Gigatonne gap between the emission reduction pledges of countries and what is needed to keep global warming well below 2C above pre-industrial levels. Governments, here in Durban, need to agree to a 2012 work plan to close the gap by increasing developed country targets to at least 40% by 2020 and provide guidelines and timeframes for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMAs) to be supported and registered.

As you know, we have many problems in our country and both financial and technical support will be required in order to enable us to develop and implement both NAMAs and National Adaptation Plans. We also need assistance in funding adaptation projects. Even while we work to secure peace and stability in our country, the government of Afghanistan is working towards implementation of Durban objective and it would ensure that Afghanistan and the rest of the international community's efforts are not made in vain. I repeat again our commitment towards the objectives of UNFCCC through active participation. And finally, Afghanistan will be strong part of common voice of safe today for tomorrow.

Thanks you for your kind attention.