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STATEMENT OF MR. MUHAMMAD ZUBAIR KIDWAI, SECRETARY MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LEADER OF THE PAKISTAN DELEGATION AT THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP-4) OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC) 2-13 NOVEMBER, 1998 BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Madam President

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you Madame, on your election as President of the Fourth Conference of Parties. I am confident that under your able guidance this conference will be able to handle all delicate and important issues on the agenda of Conference satisfactorily.

Like other developing countries, Pakistan attaches great importance to this Conference. Since 1994, the developing countries have made determined efforts to meet their voluntary obligations under the Convention in spite of serious resource constraints. The Kyoto Protocol adopted at COP-3, binding the developed countries to reduce their greenhouse gases to a specific level within the commitment period is a step in the right direction. We, however, hope that these commitments will be adhered to fully not only during the commitment period between 2008 - 2012 but immediate efforts will also be made in this regard to maintain the political momentum created in Kyoto by actually curbing emission of greenhouse gases, which are a major cause of Climate Change.

It is unfair to expect the developing countries, which are at the initial stages of development and has the duty to ensure sustainable development, would take the first step in reducing emission. We would like to underline that in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the developed countries must take the lead in reducing emissions. At the same time they must extend meaningful cooperation to the developing countries to enhance their capacity for emission control without compromising their social and economic development to the determinant of their impoverished population. The Buenos Aires Conference must therefore make its due contribution to promote the goal of sustainable development at

global level on an equitable basis.

Madam President,

Pakistan's contribution to overall GHG emission is negligible in comparison to Annex-I countries and is likely to continue to be negligible even in the year 2020. Pakistan is a country dependent mainly on agriculture with a preponderance of small farmers living on subsistence land holdings which makes it particularly susceptible to the affects of climate change. We are thus fully cognisant of Pakistan's responsibility as a developing country to work with the international community towards mitigating the adverse effects of GHG emissions. However Pakistans economy, in its present state needs the active participation and assistance – both financial and technical - of the developed countries for making investments in Climate Change Technologies.

Madam President,

We understand that the purpose of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is to assist the developing countries in achieving sustainable development and in contributing to ultimate objective of the convention. Secondly, it is to assist developed countries in achieving compliance with part of their commitments on reduction of GHG emissions. We however know that certain anomalies in the CDM remain unresolved and must be addressed before the system can be considered just, efficient and equitable. Pakistan fully supports the submission on CDM work plan submitted by G-77 and China.

Madam President

My country has taken major steps to meet its obligations under the Convention. We have integrated climate change considerations in our development plans and processes. Our parliament has passed a strong and comprehensive Environment Protection Act which also provides an effective legal basis to implement our international obligations. Our energy policies attach priority to efficiency and conservation and are focussed on development of renewable sources. Even our existing energy mixes would bear scrutiny to this fact. Pakistan gets around 38% of its

commercial energy from natural gas, against the world average of 21% and obtains 14% of electricity from hydro-power stations as against the world average of 5%. We get no more than 6% of energy from coal, compared with the world average of 30%. Of course, our energy requirements would increase substantially through the very process of economic development. We are determined to maintain a proper balance between the imperatives of development and protecting the atmosphere.

Madam President,

Pakistan has entered into significant co-operative arrangements with a number of friendly developed countries, multilateral agencies, and international NGOs. Naturally, their capacity to assist us and other developing countries would depend on adequate, secure and predictable financing. We hope that the conference would also help in reversing the present trend of declining aid levels and contributions to multilateral agencies.

Madam President,

My delegation is grateful to the Government and People of Argentina, the City of Buenos Aires and the Secretariat of the organization for their gracious hospitality and the excellent arrangement for this conference. It is our hope that, working together, under your able leadership, we would be able to achieve concrete results in the form of an Action Plan that would give practical shape to our shared hopes and aspirations.

Thank you