



**Statement by Mr. Muhammad Javed Malik
Secretary (National Disaster Management), Government of Pakistan**

**At the High Level Segment of the 17th Conference of the Parties to the
UNFCCC
Durban, South Africa
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Madam President,

I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the arrangements that the Government of South Africa has made in this beautiful city of Durban and the warm hospitality of the people of South Africa. Pakistan would like to commend South Africa for steering the ongoing negotiations in a transparent, open and inclusive manner.

2. Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E Mr. Alberto Pedro D' Alotto, the distinguished Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Madam President,

3. Pakistan has come to Durban with not only hope and determination to propel the current negotiations towards a definitive outcome, as envisaged in the Bali Plan of Action, but also with serious and immediate concerns about the extreme climate induced impacts that our country faces.

4. Global trends are exhibiting the shape of things to evolve. The 10 hottest years ever measured have occurred since 1998. Oceans are not only warming with sea level rise, but they are becoming more acidic, with negative implications for marine life. Most mountain glaciers around the world are diminishing rapidly.

5. In its report just a few weeks ago, the International Energy Agency has determined that if the current trends in emissions continue, and we go on building high-carbon energy generation, then by 2015 at least 90% of the available "carbon

budget" will be swallowed up by our energy and industrial infrastructure and by 2017, there will be no room for maneuver at all.

6. Similarly, the International Panel on Climate Change has urged countries to come up with disaster management plans to adapt to the growing risk of extreme weather events linked to human-induced climate change. It has also underlined that emissions had also led some regions experiencing longer and more intense droughts and such extreme weather events are likely to increase based on future greenhouse gas scenarios.

7. Looking at the situation that we, in Pakistan, have faced for the past two years of excessive flooding, and the growing intensity in summers, the IPCC's warning is already an unavoidable reality that is adversely impacting the country in more than one way. The increased frequency and rising intensity of natural extreme events, triggered by climate change, have exposed us to unavoidable risks.

8. In the past decade, nine out of the top ten natural disasters in Pakistan have been climate related and each time they have struck with rising intensity and cost. The past two years can truly be termed as the years of "climate catastrophe" in Pakistan with back to back floods in 2010 and 2011, rapid glacial melting, a drought in 2010, threatening cases of Glacial Lake Outbursts (GLOFs) and the recent incidence of a dengue fever epidemic in the country. These impacts come with a heavy price tag for an already strained and stretched economy.

9. Last year, with the help of the UNFCCC, Pakistan carried out a study to estimate its climate finance needs. The resulting adaptation cost figures range from between US\$ 6 billion to US\$ 14 billion per year that Pakistan would, at an average, need in the 2010-2050 time frame to cope with the effects of climate change. Ironically, the natural disasters striking the country in the past two years, have already established that these are not just future projections but costs, which are very real, and already upon us. The country no longer has an exit strategy for climate change. It has no other option but to face the issue head on and bear the associated costs.

10. It comes as no surprise that a number of independent climate bodies undeniably categorize Pakistan amongst the highly vulnerable countries. A recent civil society report has placed Pakistan as the country "most impacted" by climate change in the year 2010. Pakistan is, therefore, of the view that we need to revisit the current global vision of climate vulnerability and develop a more holistic approach. Such an approach, we believe, would allow for more effective and equitable allocation of resources to deal with climate change.

11. Given the extreme vulnerability to climate change, the success of these negotiations is not just important but rather an imperative for Pakistan. Our commitment to this global process is a result of the harsh realities that people of Pakistan are facing today due to climate change. In our view, the only path available is to overcome our differences in achieving an outcome that arrests and reverses these negative climatic trends. Together we bear a huge responsibility. We are here to make the right choices for our collective future and survival.

12. Notwithstanding our own vulnerability, Pakistan is particularly concerned at the existential threat that climate change poses not only to the whole South Asian region but also to the many Small Island Developing states (SIDs) and the enhanced risks it poses to the Least Developing Countries. Pakistan wishes to assure its SIDs and LDCs partners that it remains committed to ensuring an outcome that prioritizes their needs.

13. With less than two days of negotiating time left, Pakistan would strongly urge all parties to show flexibility in evolving agreements to make this conference a watershed in our quest to meet the challenge of climate change.

14. Pakistan strongly supports the notion of a fair, equitable and balanced set of decisions. I have advised my delegation to undertake intensive consultations with our partners, with your team and members of the Group of 77 and China to ensure that we can build upon the trust that was rekindled in Cancun and move forwards in a positive manner.

Madam President,

15. Pakistan strongly supported the adoption of decisions at Cancun, which in our view were timely and pragmatic measures to move towards long-term cooperative action. Regretfully, the follow up progress has been extremely slow and dismal. We, thus, share the urgency in settling all pending and ensuring that negotiations under the two tracks culminate in positive and agreed decisions at Durban.

16. Under your able leadership, Pakistan looks forward to a balanced and a comprehensive agreement at Durban, which ensures completion of the Bali Road Map.

In this regard, following decisions are crucial:

- a. Successful completion of negotiations under the Kyoto Protocol to agree, at the least, on a mandate to avoid any “gap” in commitments which could provide certainty and avoid a derailment of the growing carbon market as well as the Adaptation Fund.
 - b. Annex-I countries should commit to a deeper emission reduction cut i.e. 25-40% as required by the science. The current levels of voluntary pledges (at the lower end of their ranges) suggest that they will have either increased their emissions by 6 per cent, or (at the upper end) reduced by 16 per cent.
 - c. Durban should operationalize the building blocks initiated in Cancun including the Standing Committee on Finance to improve the governance of climate finance; Operationalization of an empowered Adaptation Committee which should report directly to the Conference of the Parties; the operationalization of the technology executive committee and the technology network and, most importantly, the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund to start delivering much needed climate finance to countries like Pakistan.
 - d. A decision on scaled up and predictable long-term finance, which should also address the source and the associated “gap” of financing between 2012 when fast track finance ends and 2020 when the promised US\$ 100 billion of long-term finance begins.
 - e. A mechanism to address issues related to equity, intellectual property rights and unilateral trade measures.
17. Pakistan also supports the establishment of a Reduced Emission from Forest Degradation and Deforestation (REDD+) Mechanism. We are open to the establishment of a REDD+ Window in any new Climate Change Fund/Mechanism. Pakistan believes that there is a need to strongly reflect the recognition of the special needs of the low forest cover countries in the evolving REDD+ architecture.

Madam President,

18. Pakistan is not averse to initiating a new forum for negotiations towards a more inclusive regime. While this hinges on completing the Bali Road Map, we also believe that some intermediary steps may well be necessary to prepare Parties to engage in an effective manner. An intervening dialogue should help parties in evolving a coherent mandate that reflect contemporary realities without undermining the fundamental principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.

19. I would also like to affirm that despite resource constraints amid a very difficult security environment, the present Government is undertaking considerable actions at the national level in evolving a national framework on climate change.

20. The recent floods in Pakistan have highlighted the need for integrating climate change – particularly adaptation - in our national economic policy and planning. Following the release of report by the National Task Force on Climate Change last year, we are now finalizing the process of approving our National Climate Change Policy and a National Adaptation Plan in close partnership with the United Nations in Pakistan. We are also cognizant of the requirement to develop a receptive infrastructure and capacity in the country to assimilate our future climate finance needs. On the development of such an enabling environment and conducive capacity, we will continue to seek international cooperation and assistance.

21. Pakistan strongly believes and supports the establishment of a more inclusive climate regime that combines the voluntary mitigation actions of the developing countries in global efforts to reduce emissions subject to the provision of finance and technology and in accordance with the fundamental principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. This is the spirit of Bali and Pakistan remains committed to it. Pakistan is ready to undertake measureable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the framework of National Communications.

22. Already, we are committing significant climate resources towards climate change. In this regards, the country committed US\$ 4.5 billion towards climate costs in the years 2007-2009 alone out of its national budgetary finances. This includes projects supporting low carbon development as well as establishing of climate resilient infrastructure in the country.

Madam President

23. In conclusion, I would like to once again assure you of Pakistan's strong commitment to working closely with the Presidency and the South African Government during the remaining days of this Conference to ensure a successful and balanced outcome.