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Statement to the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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Leader of the Pakistan Delegation
And
Ambassador of Pakistan to The Netherlands

The Hague, 21 November 2000

Mr. President,

Even though we have entered the fourth year since signing the Kyoto Protocol, we are still far away from the course we had set for ourselves. We are still in the process of negotiating and renegotiating principles and mechanisms of operationalising Kyoto Protocol.

We have still not realized that the commitment to protect global climatic system for the benefit of present and future generations has to be based on the equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities .

Effects of climate change are irreversible for ecosystems, agriculture, water supply and health. In all parts of the globe, the nature has warned us in form of floods, droughts, landslides and storms. Scientists are ringing alarm bells. Yet, we still continue to be in a state of disturbing impasse.

The Kyoto Protocol is the first and foremost milestone which sought to modify long term emissions trends. It stipulated that the worldwide release of carbon based gases must decrease to 5.2% below the 1990 level. Unfortunately, most of the countries which are guilty of major pollution of the earth's atmosphere have not observed targets assigned to them. As a matter of fact, these countries have increased their share of these gas emissions.

It is ironic that developing countries who are not responsible for the blame will suffer the most devastating consequences. The damage caused by climate change will aggravate the existing socio-economic inequalities.

Mr. President, the moment of reckoning has arrived. Rising sea-levels and rogue storms do not discriminate between rich and poor. We need to demonstrate greater political will and good faith to implement Kyoto Protocol. We should shun scramble for short term gain and preservation of status quo. If we prolong negotiations and postpone decisions, as we have been doing since Koyoto, we will find ourselves overpowered by floods, droughts, storms, desertification and other disasters.

The fate of the Earth and its people depends on the sincerity of the international community in according proper priority to environmental aspects of Human Rights. Adverse climate changes will severely undermine the goal of sustainable development in the developing countries.

Indeed, our actions must speak louder than the words as the Prime Minister of our host country Mr. Wim Kok implored us the other day. My delegation, therefore, urges that:

- a) Annex I Parties should demonstrate progress through domestic action to cut green house gases.
- b) We should give due importance to strong and enforceable rules and procedures that prevent and penalize non-compliance.
- c) We should make an expeditious beginning towards Clean Development Mechanism.
- d) The industrialized countries should give abiding commitment for transfer of technology and financial resources to enable developing countries to cope with the impact of climate changes.

At this Conference, we need to make hard decisions so that we can deal with adverse effects of climate change. Industrialized and developing countries must stand together. Time is not on our side. Future generations will judge us harshly indeed, should we fail to seize the moment.