

Statement by H.E. Mr. Zahid Hamid, Minister for Climate Change Government of Pakistan for the Opening Plenary of COP-21

Excellency Mr. Laurent Fabius

President of the 21st Session of the Conference of Parties and 11<sup>th</sup> Session Conference of Parties serving as Meeting of Parties

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalaam-o-alaikum and bon jour!

On behalf of the Government of Pakistan, I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, for assuming the Presidency of COP-21 and CMP-11 and re-affirm our fullest confidence in your leadership.

Mr. President:

This is a defining moment in the history of international climate change policy development. Attention of the people of the world is focused on us. Given the very clear enunciation of intent and political will by world leaders yesterday, I am confident that under the able leadership of the French Presidency, we will successfully realize expectations for a comprehensive Paris Agreement which will put in place a globally responsive climate governance framework. I would like to express the Government of Pakistan's complete support to the French Presidency in accomplishing this onerous task in the coming days.

We are deeply appreciative of the excellent arrangements made for COP-21 by the Government of France under very challenging circumstances. We strongly condemn the heinous acts of terrorism in Paris last month and would like to convey heart-felt condolences to the families of the victims. The people of Pakistan have themselves been target of terrorism for the past several years and can therefore relate to, and share the grief of, the people of France over this horrendous incident.

I would also take this opportunity to express Government of Pakistan's appreciation to the Presidency of COP-20, the Government of Republic of Peru for their commendable work.