

Statement by the Prime Minister at the Inaugural Session of The 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

(Paris, 30 November 2015)

H.E President Francois Hollande,

H.E Secretary General Ban Ki-moon,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to join leaders from around the world in this beautiful city. Paris has long been a symbol of human endeavor and enterprise. It also epitomizes human resilience in the face of adversity.

We are meeting at a defining juncture; a crossroads that offers both a historic opportunity to act against the threat of Climate Change, and a strong global will to take that course.

This is all the more important for countries like Pakistan, whose contribution to global warming is minimal, yet it remains one of the most vulnerable to its adverse effects.

Stemming the tide of climate change is a global challenge that requires collective action. Our responsibilities, however, are not evenly spread.

States with deep carbon footprints and history of large emissions should take the greatest responsibility in redressing the situation.

Pakistan believes that a comprehensive and meaningful climate change agreement must be anchored around the principle of '**Common but Differentiated Responsibilities**'.

The agreement should be cognizant of the needs of the developing countries in pursuit of economic growth and development. It should also be holistic in scope and ambition, by taking a balanced view between mitigation and adaptation aspects. An

effective 'Loss and Damage' mechanism also needs to be incorporated into the Agreement.

Pakistan is committed to the cause of reducing global emissions. Several mitigation initiatives, including promotion of affordable renewable technologies, measures towards energy efficiency, implementation of mass transport systems and expansion of hydro-electricity potential, are already part of our development strategy.

For the effective implementation of our national programs finance, technology transfer, and capacity building remain key enablers.

As the main financial delivery mechanism of the agreement, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) holds the potential to provide a powerful stimulus towards low-carbon and carbon-resilient development solutions. We would also need to ensure transparency in support provided to the developing countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Pakistan remains committed to the development of a responsive global climate governance framework.

Having made major strides towards this goal, what is now required is the right mix of flexibility and foresight by all parties, to secure convergence on all outstanding issues. In our deliberations today, we are encouraged by the positive affirmation of support to this objective.

Pakistan looks forward to working closely with our global partners towards an Agreement, which enjoys both strong political ownership and broad social acceptability.

I thank you.