



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
8 East, 65 Street, New York, NY 10065 – Tel: 212-879-8600

**Statement by Mr. Raza Bashir Tarar,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations
in the High Level Segment of the
19th Session of Commission on Sustainable Development
(New York, 13 May, 2011)**

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It is my pleasure to address the 19th session of the UN Commission on Sustainable development (CSD 19). I would like to assure you of our cooperation and support in successful conclusion of the work during this session.

2. Pakistan would like to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of Argentina on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
3. I would also like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The CSD 19 themes are aimed at further broadening and strengthening the sustainable development agenda. Pakistan believes that Rio Principles must guide our work, amongst which, in our view, the following three are especially significant:

- i. Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration in which States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their developmental policies. In our view, the prescriptive approach espoused by some delegations runs contrary to this principle;
- ii. Principle 5, which states “all states shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.” In this respect, Pakistan is constrained to voice its concern on the absence of firm

commitments on the provision of the means of implementation. It is ironic that this spirit of cooperation – which is also a hallmark of the United Nations – is today dissipating. We are concerned that this will have a long term impact on the viability of our work and in many respects the United Nations.

- iii. Principle 7, which stipulates that the States have Common But Differentiated Responsibilities. The onerous responsibilities that the developing countries are being asked to undertake without necessary concomitant resources also run contrary to the spirit of this fundamental principle.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The multiple and interrelated crises, particularly food security, climate change, global economic and financial crisis has seriously challenged developing countries capacity to respond. In this regard, we urge development partners to implement their part of the commitment. Technology transfer and increased capacity building and additional and predictable financial resources represent three essential tools for implementation.

6. Pakistan is keen to move forward in the development of policy framework that would help overcome obstacles and challenges that we have encountered in the five thematic areas during the review cycle at CSD 18. However, there should be no doubt that we need more than ever, a strong UN capable of delivering not only the short-term assistance but also long-term support.

Mr. Chairman,

7. One of the most important issues on our agenda includes adoption of a 10 year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production (10YFP on SCP).

8. Pakistan supports the G77 and China's contention that tackling current unsustainable patterns of consumption and production in the developed world and strengthening the means of implementation for developing countries to accelerate a shift towards sustainability is central to the objective of 10 FYP.

9. With respect to the 10YFP, Pakistan would like to underscore the following key priorities:

- a. The framework should aim at forging a common vision that encourages more efficient use of natural resources while reducing the harmful impact on environment. Pakistan does not agree that growth can be immediately decoupled from the use of environmental resources, which, in our view, is a long-term process.
- b. Developed countries must take the lead in bringing their consumption at sustainable levels.
- c. It should not impose new constraints and conditions on the development and should not be used for trade protectionist purpose.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Transport is a central component of sustainable development and economic growth. Access to mobility is vital to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) especially in alleviating poverty. We are conscious that measures aimed at ensuring growth in mobility must also take into account the negative impacts on environment and human health.

11. Pakistan has taken significant measures in transport sector by switching to CHC. By December 2009, Pakistan had the highest amount of natural gas vehicles in the world at 2.3 million vehicles running on CNG.

12. From Pakistan's perspective, there are two critical issues requiring focus in this sector. These include:

- i. Increased usage of public transport – Pakistan requires assistance in orienting away from private vehicles and towards public transport.
- ii. Increased usage of railways: Significant up gradation and expansion of the railway system is needed for transportation of cargo in a quick, cheap and greater capacity. This will also lead to lower GHG emissions.

Mr. Chairman,

13. The benefits of Chemicals and derivatives for the developing countries cannot be over emphasized. The main challenge for the developing countries lay in the local capacity to manage production, effective uses of chemicals and protection of chemical hazards and the environment. Pakistan is working on strengthening of regulatory system for effectively managed use of such chemicals.

Mr. Chairman,

14. On waste management, it is our expectation that there will be significant attention and flow of assistance to developing countries to enable them to strengthen their national, human and institutional capacities for monitoring of waste generation, treatment and disposal as well as the establishment of inventories of hazardous and radio-active waste and sites as a basis for developing facilities for cleaning up contaminated sites.

15. Pakistan strongly supports the need for new financial instruments akin to the Clean Development Mechanism in mobilizing new and additional financial resources for developing countries to build waste management infrastructure, facilities and strengthen mechanisms for protecting the environment from waste disposal.

16. In order to mitigate its waste contributed GHG emissions, Pakistan seeks assistance in the following areas:

- a) Enhancing and strengthening the capacity of landfills to deal with GHG emissions and use it as a source of energy and/or steam generation;
- b) Recycling of solid waste/refuse and industrial waste management, which could be a major cost saver.

Mr. Chairman,

17. Pakistan recognizes the need for striking a balance between economic, social and environmental impacts over the mining activities consistent with mandate contained in paragraph 46 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) with a strong emphasis on supporting national efforts with regard to mining activities, in accordance with countries' national laws and regulations.

Mr. Chairman,

18. Pakistan strongly supports the need for giving special attention to the Small Island Developing Countries due to their small size, acute vulnerability to external shocks and natural disasters consistent with the Barbados Plan of Action. We note that SIDs have generally sought to integrate sustainable development into their national development plans and strategies. However, there is an increasing need to support them in respect of financial and technical resources.

19. Challenge of sustainable development in the developing countries hinges on a conducive and responsive global environment. Unlocking the global support is thus vital to reducing the negative impacts on environment and promotion of sustainable development. It will be unfortunate, if we do manage to set the norms but ignore the need for provision of resources and other means for their implementation.

I thank you.
