



Statement by

H.E. Muhammad Javed Malik

Federal Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change,

Government of Pakistan

at the Plenary Meeting of the

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil,

21 June 2012

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Madam President,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Government of Brazil for the warm hospitality extended to us in this beautiful city of Rio de Janeiro.

2. It is my privilege to join the galaxy of world leaders at this foremost UN Conference on Sustainable Development. Since the Earth Summit in 1992, the city of Rio de Janeiro has become almost integral to the global sustainable development agenda.

3. I would like to congratulate you and the Brazilian team for undertaking and leading the final consultations on the outcome to forge the agreement we have before us. Like all international endeavors, the agreement before us cannot satisfy everyone but there should be no doubt that it represents the collective will of the international community faced with exceedingly turbulent global economic environment.

4. Amid the global economic and financial situation, it also represents collective will and outlines series of steps in regenerating depleting natural resources and averting the threat of climate change while sustaining economic growth at an accelerated pace. Pakistan has no doubt that we have evolved pathways in boosting efforts to promote sustainable development.

Madam President,

5. Over the past decade, Pakistan has faced a string of mega-natural disasters, including devastating floods of 2010 and 2011, major droughts of 1999 and 2002 and the horrific earthquake, which shook Northern Areas and AJK in 2005. Recent studies establish that floods and droughts were triggered by climate change.

6. Pakistan also continues to bear economic, human and social impact of the ongoing war in Afghanistan. This coupled with security challenges and humanitarian needs of millions of people has severely impeded economic growth in the country.

7. While the primary focus of our integrated planning has remained on pro-poor economic growth, its thrust and content has been highly sensitive to issues of global concern, including environmental protection, food security, social justice and human rights.

8. We have developed a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) through a broad based consultative process, which envisions creating a just and harmonious society by integrating economic, social and environmental pillars. It also seeks to promote vibrant and equitable economic growth without over-exploitation of natural resources.

Madam President,

9. Since the dawn of the twenty first century, the Millennium Development Agenda has focused on efforts in achieving some of the most important global goals. Despite considerable achievements, the task before us remains daunting.

10. It underlines the need for a new development and economic growth model which is fair and people centered. There is also a need for a more balanced distribution of resources both within and amongst the countries of the world.

11. Pakistan believes that a viable sustainable development framework should not only ensure economic growth and create decent jobs but should also ensure sustainability of natural resources. However, transformation towards green economy would be critically dependent on the availability of abundant and affordable energy along with important adjustments in the global economic architecture, like:

- a. Re-orienting intellectual property rights regime towards diffusion of technology in addition to innovation.
- b. Granting greater flexibility to the developing countries in multilateral trading rules for promoting green industries and sectors especially through the use of incentives.
- c. An effective global resource mobilization strategy to assist countries in transition towards green economy.
- d. International arrangements to lead to necessary decline in the price of technologies particularly renewable energy technologies such as global feed-in-tariff mechanisms.

12. Pakistan is pleased to note that together we have agreed to take steps in addressing these challenges in a timely fashion. For the first

time in the global discourse, we have agreed to establish a framework on green economy; a High Level political Forum on Sustainable Development; a process to evolve and facilitate mobilization of resources and technology to the developing world. These are no small steps and no small agreements.

Madam President,

13. My government is particularly pleased to note positive momentum towards adopting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to complement and reinforce the Millennium Development Goals.

14. The SDGs should form part of an integrated and coherent agenda to address the crucial challenges of the post-2015 period. Nevertheless, SDGs should remain consistent with the Rio principles notably the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

15. Pakistan will contribute constructively to the inter-governmental process for setting the SDGs, which should complete its work latest by the end of 67th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Madam President,

16. Pakistan would like to underline the need for a strong international institutional framework for sustainable development that integrates all the three pillars with a particular focus on key areas like water, integrated land management, food and energy security.

17. Pakistan has supported to take measures towards strengthening the Nairobi based United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). We have noted the strong desire of vast majority of our African friends to convert UNEP into a UN Specialized Agency. We have no doubt that the steps we have agreed will help facilitate this transition in due course.

We will pragmatically address this challenge in the context of the UN General Assembly.

Madam President,

Excellences,

Ladies and Gentlemen

18. Let me conclude by stating that Rio+20 has revived the spirit of Rio 1992. It has not only enhanced the global focus on eradicating poverty and addressing its root causes but has also brought into its fold several cross cutting issues which negatively impact upon efforts at eradicating poverty such as health, food security and water. In this context, Pakistan is pleased on the roadmap we have before us which would guide us towards peace, social justice and universal human wellbeing.

19. Pakistan is confident that implementation of this agreement will help forge a healthy environment for the present and the future generations. We have charted a course of action on the “Future We All Want” and we will not spare any effort in translating it into a reality.

Thank you.