

**Address by the  
Prime Minister of Pakistan**

**At the  
International Conference  
on Climate Change and Development,  
Serena Hotel, Islamabad  
(21st October, 2010)**

**Mr. Hameedullah Jan Afridi,  
Federal Minister for Environment**

**Mr. R.K. Pachauri, Chairman,  
Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

**Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed,  
Advisor on Science and Technology**

**Mr. Muhammad Javed Malik,  
Secretary Environment**

**Mr. Timo Pakkala,  
Resident Coordinator United Nations in Pakistan**

**Respectable members of the National Assembly / Senate, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Assalam o alaikum**

**It is my pleasure to inaugurate this International Conference on Climate Change and Development organized by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with other partners. Climate change is a serious challenge of our times.**

**Today climate change stands not only as a major environmental issue but also as a multi-dimensional developmental challenge. Climate change is both a challenge and a reality for thinkers, planners, policy makers and professionals across the board.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report identified South Asia as a region most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. As home to the highest number of people living below poverty line, South Asia is a region where we already confront serious and difficult development challenges. A rapidly changing climate is unfortunately further exacerbating the situation.**

**Climate change, with all its severity and unpredictability, has already become a reality for over 180 million Pakistanis.**

**The massive devastation caused by the recent floods reconfirms Pakistan's extreme vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change.**

**The recent flash floods have left a trail of destruction and loss of lives. More than 20 million people have been affected; 8 million are still homeless; 1.8 million houses destroyed; 2 million hectares of cultivatable land damaged; 1.3 million hectares of cotton, rice, sugarcane, maize and orchards destroyed; 1.2 million large and small cattle and 6 million poultry perished.**

**We have mobilized all our national resources to provide rescue and relief to the affected people.**

**The rehabilitation and reconstruction in affected areas would be even more challenging and prohibitively expensive.**

**We are grateful to the international community for the much needed support and assistance in the rescue and relief efforts in Pakistan. We look forward to their continued assistance and support during the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase as well.**

**The Government of Pakistan is cognizant of the importance of Climate Change and has undertaken a number of steps in this regard. Pakistan is one of the early signatories to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).**

**Pakistan has also been active in the International fora and ongoing climate change negotiations. Working closely with the international community, we are keen to see the ongoing climate change negotiation reach an early, successful and equitable conclusion.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Pakistan looks forward to a productive and substantive outcome at United Nation Climate Change Conference (COP16), in Cancun, which should pave the way for an agreed outcome in future covering, an overall commitment to reduce emissions by the developed countries, institutional support for developing countries for nationally appropriate mitigation actions, Improving the governance and oversight of existing climate financing and creation of a new global climate change fund.**

**It is important to initiate follow-up actions on the financial commitments by the developed countries and establishing technology development and transfer mechanism alongwith capacity building.**

**Distinguished Audience**

**We are fully cognizant that our search for an agreed outcome may take some time. However, this should not lead us to any complacency in our search for fair, equitable and development oriented solutions to combat climate change.**

**Pakistan is moving towards developing a multi-stakeholder consensus on framing a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy and Action Framework. This would help us to develop nationally appropriate responses and actions to mainstream climate change into our wide development effort.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen:**

**There are no two opinions on the fact that Climate Change is a common challenge faced by humanity and therefore the response to it should be universal and collective. We owe this to our future generations.**

**I welcome the holding of this international conference which is a timely intervention before formal negotiations at Cancun, Mexico later this year. It will be an important milestone in the run up to the meeting and I look forward to hearing about its outcome and its recommendations.**

**Thank you very much**

**Pakistan Paindabad**