Pakistan Statement

delivered by Minister for Climate Change

COP-22 Marrakech: 16 November 2016

Bismillah-ar-Rahman-nir-Rahim!

- **Excellency Mr. Salaheddine Mezouar, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Morocco and President of COP-22**
- **Honorable Heads of States and Governments**
- **Honorable Ministers**
- **Excellencies**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

***Assalaam-o-Alaikum*, Good Morning and *Bonjour*!**

It is a great honor and privilege to be here today in the beautiful city of Marrakech on the historic occasion of COP-22, CMP-12 and CMA-1.

I congratulate the Government and the people of Morocco for hosting two successful COPs. It is indeed a great achievement. I would also like to thank them for their kind hospitality.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

Pakistan's contribution to global warming is minimal. We emit less than 1% of total annual global greenhouse gas emissions. Yet we are ranked amongst the top ten countries most vulnerable to climate change.

Pakistan today faces several major risks relating to climate change, including glacial melt, variable monsoons, recurrent floods, sea intrusion, higher average temperatures and higher frequency of droughts. Millions of people have been affected and colossal damage has been caused by recurring natural disasters.

These threats pose major survival concerns for Pakistan, particularly in relation to the country's water security, food security and energy security. They also have enormous adverse consequences for all socio-economic sectors, impeding our ability to promote sustainable growth and development and the economic prosperity of our people.

To cope with these adverse impacts of climate change, Pakistan has developed comprehensive policies and plans that include both adaptation and mitigation measures.

We have adopted a perspective development plan called "Vision 2025", a National Climate Change Policy along with a Framework for its implementation, and a National Disaster Risk Reduction Policy.

Next week we will be introducing in Parliament a historic Pakistan Climate Change Bill, which will establish a high-level, policy-making Pakistan Climate Change Council, alongwith the Pakistan Climate Change Authority, to prepare and supervise implementation of adaptation and mitigation projects in various sectors.

Pakistan has also developed a National Sustainable Development Strategy, and I am proud to inform you that earlier this year Pakistan became perhaps the first country in the world whose National Assembly passed

a unanimous Resolution adopting the SDGs Agenda as its own national development agenda.

Our Parliament is also the first Parliament in the world to become ‘’green’’ by converting to solar energy. As part of our plans to promote renewable energy, we are constructing what will be, when completed, the world’s largest solar park of 1000 MW.

A law to promote effective conservation and efficient use of energy has also been enacted.

To reduce adverse impacts of climate change and build resilience, a Green Pakistan Programme has been launched under directions of Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, with the objective, amongst others, to increase afforestation throughout the country.

The Government of Pakistan is fully committed to implementation of the Paris Agreement, which we have duly ratified. We have also forwarded to the UNFCCC Secretariat our INDCs, taking into account the latest situation relating to our development needs and

strategies. It includes updated projections of green-house gas emissions and our national ambition to reduce these emissions, alongwith associated financial and technical implications.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are confident that the comprehensive approach adopted by Pakistan will help us meet our climate objectives, build required resilience and contribute to the global mitigation efforts against climate change.

However I must emphasize that the availability of adequate resources is critical for effective climate actions in all our countries.

Challenges and needs of developing countries are enormous. In Pakistan alone, we need upto US$ 14 billion annually to adapt to climate change impacts. Our mitigation needs, which have been estimated in our INDCs based on various assumptions, are much higher.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Paris Agreement has transformed our aspirations into reality and has provided an action plan to deal with the biggest development emergency of our times. We must therefore implement it fully and effectively.

For this purpose, the availability of climate finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building in the developing world must be ensured.

All countries need to honour their respective commitments under the Paris Agreement and to work together to operationalize its implementation. I am pleased to reiterate that Pakistan, on its part, is ready to contribute fully to these collective efforts.

Thank you.