UAE National Statement – COP22

Delivered by His Excellency Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change & Environment on behalf of His Highness Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister of the UAE and Minister of Presidential Affairs

Your Majesty the King Mohammed VI, King of Morocco

Your Excellency, Salaheddine Mezour, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of COP22

Your Highnesses and Excellencies,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Arab Emirates, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the leadership and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for hosting the COP 22 Climate Change Conference. Today we seek to make important decisions that support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and translate its outcomes into successful actions that reduce the impacts of global warming. I applaud the continued efforts of the Secretariat to achieve the aspirations of the world to ensure a sustainable future for generations to come.

Turning the Paris Agreement into real initiatives on the ground requires enormous efforts and collaboration at local, regional and international levels. The Paris Agreement also mandates the adoption of a flexible approach that allows all countries, especially those in the developing world, to take urgent action in line with their national priorities and circumstances. At the same time, the developed world has a responsibility to honor its commitments to extend financial support to developing countries, and help them in capacity building and climate change adaptation through technology transfer mechanisms.

The wide participation of countries as well as non-state actors in this conference boosts our confidence and demonstrates the commitment and concerted efforts of the international community to minimize the impacts of climate change and will enable the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Ladies and gentlemen**,**

As a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and in line with its international commitments, the United Arab Emirates ratified the Paris Agreement, its commitments also demonstrated by hosting of the World Green Economy Summit (WGES) over the last two-years. The country is currently working on the development of a national action plan on climate change that will serve as a framework for future initiatives and programs to address climate change. We have also adopted strategies that focus on the transition of the country from a hydro-carbon focused economy to a more diversified and knowledge-based economy. The green initiatives implemented by the UAE include the launch of the Green Economy for Sustainable Development initiative as well as others that aim to support research and development in the clean energy sector. These initiatives promote rationalization of water consumption, improve energy efficiency, support the transition to a low-carbon economy, boost innovation and creativity and promote a culture of sustainability.

As part of this priority, the UAE is working hard to increase the share of clean energy in its energy mix to 27% by 2021. Our nation also broke a world record for the second time this year when it received the lowest bidding price of US cents 2.42 per kilowatt-hour for a solar photovoltaic (PV) project.

In the same context, the UAE successfully implemented the 100 MW Shams 1 concentrated solar power project and is developing the Mohammed bin Rashid Solar Park that leverages both photovoltaic and concentrated solar technologies and will generate 5,000 megawatts of electricity by 2030. Above all, the country believes in the significance of public-private partnership as one of the key drivers of green growth.

Ladies and gentlemen**,**

The Paris Agreement has sent a clear message to the world. As governments, we have the responsibility to involve non-state actors and galvanize the efforts of all parties towards achieving our common agenda.

In the UAE, we are committed to working on initiatives that contribute to the mitigation of climate change through providing effective platforms that offer decision-makers, opinion leaders and government and private sector leaders opportunities to forge synergies. We are confident that such platforms will offer a strong impetus to global efforts to minimize the impacts of climate change. Given this, the UAE will host the second Abu Dhabi Global Action Day in our capital city Abu Dhabi during t Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week in January 2017.

We strongly believe that it is imperative to build bridges of cooperation and engagement with the international community to encourage debates on the issue of climate change. I am also pleased to invite you to participate in the Abu Dhabi Climate Action Day and the World Government Summit that will be held in Dubai in February 2017. The summit will include sessions focused on climate and food security, and promote joint initiatives and measures to address food security in the context of climate change. It will be an ideal opportunity to build partnerships and leverage our capabilities to ensure a promising future for us and for our coming generations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for your attention. I wish you all a productive participation at COP22 and hope that we will continue to work collectively in addressing climate change.