

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Rafiuzzaman Siddiqui
Leader of the Pakistan Delegation
First Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
(UNEA)**

H. E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

H.E. Mr. John Ashe, President of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honored to represent the Government of Pakistan at the First session of UNEA in response to your invitation.

First of all, I would like to acknowledge UNEP's leadership role in establishing UN Environment Assembly which I am confident will prove to be an effective forum for the realization of the objectives of Rio+20.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The major challenge being faced by Pakistan is to maintain a balance between indiscriminate economic growth and sustainable development. In past, there have been compromises to the

environmental sustainability due to lack of capacities and complexities associated with it. Pakistan has experienced an increased vulnerability to climate change impacts due to inappropriate development pattern. Despite all the issues, Pakistan's movement towards sustainable development is progressive. The Government is now cognizant of the significance of sustainable development and is fully committed towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Government of Pakistan is fully committed towards achieving the goals of Rio+20. The Government's commitment to their implementation is evident in its policies and plans including the National Climate Change Policy, Framework for Economic Growth and Vision 2025 which provide an integrated agenda for promoting sustainable development in the country in all dimensions of Sustainable Development.

Pakistan has also developed a National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) in which the actions agreed at Rio+20 have been incorporated. NSDS is a major step forward in promoting sustainable development and its effective implementation would require transforming its strategic goals into time bound targets. Pakistan has already removed subsidies on

fossil fuel as well as waved off duties and taxes on the import of renewable energy equipments and products.

Pakistan is pursuing implementation of Rio+20 decisions to effectively address the climate change vulnerabilities and risk reduction, Deforestation and desertification, Biodiversity losses, management of hazardous waste and chemicals.

Mr. President

With regard to the illegal trade of wildlife, Pakistan National Council for Conservation of Wildlife (NCCW) has introduced a licensing mechanism to regulate the import and export of listed species. The Council acts as a scientific authority for implementation of CITES (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and CBD (The Convention on Biological Diversity).

The Government of Pakistan has also developed Pakistan Trade Control of Fauna & Flora Act- 2010 to fulfill our commitments as a party to the CITES. Furthermore, Pakistan's Trade Policy covers all the provisions of CITES trade obligations.

Mr. President,

This is high time to realize fairly the extent of damage we have caused to the Earth. We therefore need not only to make formal commitments but also to implement our policies in letter and spirit.

Mr. President

I would like to reassure you that Pakistan is determined to fulfill its obligations in line with the agenda of UNEA to address the environmental issues. We appreciate your efforts for keeping the negotiations open and transparent. The Government of Pakistan would contribute constructively to the formal and informal discussions.

I look forward to a successful conclusion of the UNEA session and hope that UNEA would work on providing timeline to member states for the implementation of the decisions.

Thank you.