

**STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE
PAKISTAN DELEGATION AT THE HIGH
LEVEL CONFERENCE ON
'WORLD FOOD SECURITY: THE
CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE
AND BIOENERGY'
(ROME, 3-5 JUNE 2008)**

1. I would like to thank Dr Jacques Diouf, Director General FAO for convening this Conference and the UN Secretary General Mr Ban Ki Moon for establishing the High Level Task Force on Food Security and his active support to make this conference a success. The presence of many important world leaders is a testimony to the need for urgent and unified international action.
2. The widespread political and social unrest caused by soaring food and oil prices and difficulties faced by developing countries in meeting food and energy needs as well as the negative impact of climate change have added to the urgency of effective efforts to address the inter connected challenges of food security, climate change and bio-energy.
3. Pakistan critically depends on agriculture for food, industrial raw material and employment. We are also faced with the challenge of meeting the food and nutrition needs of our people following a shortfall in the production of grains and of coping with unprecedented hike in the prices of oil and agricultural inputs.
4. The new Government, headed by Prime Minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, has taken a number of steps to ensure provision of adequate and affordable food to its people, especially the poorer

and most vulnerable segments of the population. The Government has also initiated efforts to revitalize the agricultural sector in the short and medium terms.

5. Pakistan is cognizant of the seriousness of climate change and its devastating impact on our agriculture, which is largely irrigated by river water supplied by glacier melting. This is likely to be disrupted by climate change, among other negative consequences. We have, therefore, actively participated in the global discussions on Climate Change. The Government intends to launch a comprehensive process for achieving a better understanding and overcoming the impact of climate change through mitigation, adaptation, the use of science and technology and integration of climate imperatives in our economic development efforts.

6. The success of efforts being made by Pakistan and other developing countries and those expected of them for dealing with the important and inter connected issues of food and energy security and climate change clearly depend on external support. Developed countries, the UN system, the World Bank and regional development banks and other institutions must provide assistance. In this regard, we wish to commend the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the FAO, World Food Programme, UNICEF, other UN agencies including the Global

Environment Facility and UN Environment Programme for their initiatives and efforts to assist developing countries' endeavours to cope with the food, fuel and climate nexus.

7. The gravity of the food and energy and climate change challenges warrant a global response. The response to food crisis, should be emergency assistance and medium and long term actions. Following actions would have to be ensured:

- I. Provision of adequate food assistance to vulnerable countries through the World Food Programme and other bodies.
- II. Improvement in the global food security system by ensuring a significant increase in food production in developing countries and sufficient global food reserves. This would entail provision of high yield and disease resistant seeds and other inputs.
- III. Conclusion of Doha Round on International Trade, removal of visible and invisible trade barriers, and providing for improved access to food and other agricultural products from developing countries.
- IV. Abolition of trade distorting agricultural subsidies in OECD countries.
- V. Increased investments in agriculture, irrigation and on-farm water management in food producing developing countries

facilitated by agricultural loans at highly concessional rates by bilateral partners and multilateral agencies.

- VI. Transfer of technology, research and knowledge in agriculture to developing countries to increase food production.

- VII. Implementation of commitments of rich countries contained in the Kyoto Protocol through provision of adequate resources for adaptation and mitigation efforts such as the Clean Development Mechanism.

- VIII. Ensuring that the new framework for action on climate change to be agreed by end 2009 fully protects and promotes socio-economic development in developing countries. The ongoing negotiations in pursuance of the Bali Roadmap must integrate global food and energy security imperatives.

- IX. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Fund For Agricultural Development, and the research institutions constituting the Consultative Group of International Agricultural Research Centres must be strengthened to enable them to carry out climate change related research and share it with the developing countries.

- X. An FAO-led process comprising all stakeholders for exchange of information with a view to developing a wholistic, scientifically credible and economically and socially sustainable global bio-energy strategy including bio-fuels.
8. Let me conclude by expressing the hope that the outcome of this Conference will mark the beginning of a new phase in international cooperation for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the reduction of hunger and poverty, threatened by climate change and high energy and food prices..

Thank you