

## **SAARC DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

(Adopted by the Twenty-ninth Session of the Council of Ministers)

**7 December 2007**

We, the Foreign Ministers of member states of SAARC, are deeply concerned that the adverse effects of climate change threaten human lives and livelihoods, sustainable development, and the very existence of many developing countries, particularly in South Asia. We believe that climate change is a phenomenon that impacts on the right to development and human security.

The low-lying regions and long coastlines of SAARC face serious threats from sea-level rise. Our peoples are being adversely impacted, including massive displacement as a consequence of sea-level rise, river bank erosion, drought, severe storms and cyclones, and permanent inundation. The Himalayan regions also face the catastrophic consequences of accelerated glacier melt, including Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).

We believe that climate change is a global challenge. There is still an opportunity for mankind to address this challenge. The SAARC member states are determined to contribute to this global effort, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Given our vulnerabilities, inadequate means and limited capacities, we need to ensure rapid social and economic development in our region to make SAARC climate change resilient. Development provides the best form of adaptation. We also believe that developed countries must assume greater commitments in line with their responsibility.

SAARC believes that the way forward must include:

- Adequate resources to tackle climate change without detracting from development funds.
- Effective access to and funding assistance for the transfer of environment-friendly technologies and for adaptation.
- Binding GHG emission reduction commitments by developed countries with effective timeframes.
- Equitable burden-sharing.

As we meet in New Delhi, the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is taking place in Bali, Indonesia. We believe that the best and most appropriate way to address the threats of climate change is to adopt an integrated approach to sustainable development. We emphasize that the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol provide the multilateral framework to address the challenges of climate change. We call upon the international community to honour its commitments.

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