

EGYPT



مصر

The Permanent Mission of Egypt
to the United Nations
New York

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**Statement by Egypt
to the UN Summit on Climate Change
New York, September 22nd 2009**

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Climate change is a global threat. It affects us all. Developed and developing countries. Rich and poor countries. The big and the small.

In 1992, the international community agreed to a historical Convention on climate change. A convention that is comprehensive and well balanced. A Convention that takes into consideration the differentiation in responsibilities and respective capabilities. A decade and a half later we are still struggling to implement the Convention.

Meanwhile climate change has been developing relentlessly. It became a reality that is felt and seen in melting glaciers, extreme weather conditions, the rise of the sea level; in addition to increasing water scarcity, irregularity of crop production and other phenomena that affect the daily lives of billions of people and fuel potential conflicts in the poorest regions of the world, as is happening in Africa.

To face these challenges we have to adopt a new approach based on multilateral cooperation to combat climate change in a comprehensive manner. Each and every country should participate in these efforts, according to its responsibilities, its capabilities, and its needs, without exaggeration or neglect.

First, all countries should develop national adaptation plans. Countries that have contributed to the creation of climate change have to assume their historic responsibility by providing the necessary financing and technologies to implement adaptation plans in developing countries. They have also to lead the efforts to adopt new ways of development that are not dependent on green house gases emissions. They have to reduce their emissions in accordance with their obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol; taking into consideration as well that developing countries are ready to join in mitigation efforts on a voluntary and incremental basis if the necessary funding and technologies are provided, so that their development efforts are not affected.

Second, all countries should allocate resources to face climate change according to their capacities. Countries that have accumulated financial resources through the development achieved by the use of fossil fuels since the industrial revolution, should contribute an agreed percentage of their income to secure the necessary financing through direct investments and grants to vulnerable countries that cannot implement climate change adaptation and mitigation plans with their own resources. These countries should as well transfer adaptation and mitigation technologies to those who do not possess them. Developed countries whose companies hold International Property Rights on adaptation and mitigation technologies have to deal directly with IPRs in order to ensure the transfer of these technologies in a manner that does not involve financial burdens on developing countries that have not contributed as much to climate change. This approach would encourage the development of innovative technologies while respecting the IPR regime by the countries that defend it and have the resources to do so.

Third, the international community should provide climate change support to developing countries according to their needs. We have to absolutely avoid the creation of an artificial competition between vulnerable countries for virtual financial resources or international efforts that have yet to materialize. Climate change is a natural disaster as much as earthquakes, hurricanes, and floods. If the whole world has mobilized to support the victims of such disasters in major developed countries, we should expect a similar amount of attention and support for the countries that face an existential threat from climate change: countries that have densely populated regions that can disappear under the sea level as is the case for small islands and many developing countries such as Egypt where parts of the Nile delta which has been the center of economic and agricultural activity for centuries are expected to disappear if climate change persists under the current trends.

Our vision to combat climate change has to include all its potential implications including the impact of adaptation and mitigation actions on affected regions and countries. Adaptation efforts should be coordinated at the regional level to avoid competition for the available resources as well as potential conflicts on shared resources. The conditions of countries that depend on a limited number of economic activities have to be addressed as well. They should be helped to diversify their economies in order to respond to the measures taken to combat climate change. In short, all potential threats should be addressed, and prioritization should be made according to the gravity of the threat.

Finally, Egypt would like to invite those countries that have developed climate friendly technologies to initiate the widest possible transfer and diffusion of these technologies to contribute to the global transformation to a greener and climate friendly economy. Knowledge sharing and investment in these fields in developing countries, together with the adequate valuation of the land, solar, wind and other relevant resources of developing countries could constitute a successful basis to create projects that can generate fair benefits to all parties. We should not forget that the aim of the transformation to a green economy is to face the global challenge of climate change, not to sustain economic and trade advantages for a limited group of countries against others.

At the end, Egypt would reiterate that the challenges and threats of climate change make it imperative to us all to put competitive economic concerns aside and work together globally to protect our planet, Earth, its resources and its environment for our peoples for generations to come.