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Summit on Climate Change convened by the Secretary-General

Transcript of pre-recorded video statement

Statement by

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New York, September 22nd 2009

Ladies and Gentlemen

In the alps of Switzerland, the glaciers are melting very fast. That's why many mountains such as the Matterhorn are crumbling under the increasing landslides. On the other side of the globe, there are some islands – like those of Tuvalu - that could disappear because of the rise of the sea level. And this might happen very soon.

Not enough water in the Alps, too much water in the Pacific, which will submerge inhabited lands, and force the local people to migrate.

Wherever we live on the earth, we all are affected by climate change. We only have a chance to stop it, if every single country makes an effort. That's why every developed country has to commit to ambitious goals to reduce emissions; and that's why the emerging economies also should come forward with national efforts as a part of an international agreement. We will not be able to solve the climate crisis without them.

If we don't want poverty and migration to increase, we have no choice: solidarity is a must. Those who are mainly responsible for the pollution must help the victims of the global warming. Solidarity means: the polluters should pay for the damage and the measures of adaptation.

That's why Switzerland has proposed a tax on greenhouse gas in order to finance adaptation to climate change mainly in the developing countries.

We are all dependent on each other. We all have a genuine interest. We are all on the same earth. From the heart of the alps to the middle of the ocean, we all have to unite our forces. And we will see in Copenhagen how united the nations really are.