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**High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change**

**China Pavilion at COP23 Bonn Zone**  
**15 November 2017, 9:00-15:30**

Special Representative XIE Zhenhua,  
Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama,  
My senior UN colleagues – Patricia, Achim, Erik, Naoko, Jorge  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be with you today at this important and timely High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change.

This topic is so dear to me, as a former negotiator in this field for many years.

The world has seen increasing impacts of climate change over the past few decades.

Devastating hurricanes, forest fires, droughts, floods and heat waves are reoccurring across the world at a higher frequency and with more intensity.

The only way to tackle climate change is through global partnership.

We need to strengthen partnerships at all levels.

We need to reduce emissions and take adaptive actions on a scale that matches the climate impacts.

Developing countries have demonstrated strong political will to contribute to the global fight against climate change, notwithstanding their limited capabilities.

The High-level Forum on South-South Cooperation on Climate Change is a great initiative in this direction.

It provides a unique complementary avenue for strengthening global partnerships, through cooperation among Southern partners.

Developing countries are resolved to move forward on the Paris Agreement.

This High-level Forum can help enhance momentum and accelerate action by the global South to combat climate change.

We at the UN family are ready to do our part, as demonstrated by the presence of my senior UN colleagues here.

The Action Plan of South-South Cooperation for Secretary-General's Climate Engagement Strategy bears testimony to the commitment of the UN system.

The Action Plan presents a concrete roadmap with specific deliverables and well-defined actions that can lay the foundation for increased South-South cooperation on climate action.

It is also well aligned with the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

DESA stands ready to implement the activities assigned to us.

But we are ready to do more.

We are willing to lend our full support to the implementation of the action plan in partnership with other UN entities, Member States and business and civil society stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Having worked for more than a decade to fight climate change, I am keenly aware of the capacity building needs of developing countries.

I reassure you that DESA will enhance its support to Member States in the coming years to strengthen capabilities for climate mitigation and adaption.

I look forward to a productive discussion and fruitful outcome of the Forum.

Thank you.

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