

Closing Statement by Portugal on Behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Mr. President

On behalf of the European Union, I would like to say that we have come a long way these two weeks and we managed to walk the final mile today. But it is with some emotion that I recognize that we all succeeded, the world succeeded: we have agreed the Bali Roadmap.

We have had an extraordinary year in the run-up to our meeting here in Bali. Climate change is now firmly at the top of the international agenda, as attested by the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to the IPCC, for its role in delivering the scientific basis for our deliberations.

There's a tremendous challenge ahead of us, but history is made of vision, courage and big steps forward. We must all contribute and be prepared for the transition to a low greenhouse gas emitting economy.

Like Pakistan, Mr Chairman, the EU, too, considers that our Bali Roadmap is comprised of several elements under the convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

Mitigation action guided by the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities is key in all countries. As we have emphasized before, it is our firm conviction that developed countries must continue to take the lead in addressing climate change, while ensuring that, in the context of sustainable development, developing countries contribute to our long term goals by appropriate mitigation actions.

Technology development and transfer will play a particularly important role in enhancing action and facilitating developing countries' contributions to the global effort to prevent dangerous climate change and its serious impacts.

Mr. President

Adaptation is an issue for all countries, but we need to attend to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small islands developing states. The European Union is fully committed to contributing to our efforts to address these needs.

There's also a need to enhance the adequacy and predictability of financial flows, particularly via new and innovative sources of funding. The carbon markets play in this respect a central role, complementing the current bilateral and multilateral channels. Mr. President, distinguished delegates

Allow me also to take this opportunity to express our full confidence in the executive secretary.

Bali is the starting point of a new stage in our ability to deal with climate change.

We have a very intensive two years ahead of us and we must leave up to the expectations of the world and respond to the clear signs given to us by science.

Despite the size of the challenge, the EU is ready to start this promising journey down the Bali Roadmap.

It is in our hands to keep up the high level of ambition, the constructive spirit and the great understanding among us to achieve a very successful outcome at COP-15 in Copenhagen.

Thank you Mr. President.

