

**Statement on behalf of Group of 77 and China by Mr. Asad Majeed Khan,
Counsellor, Pakistan Mission to the UN on Air/Atmospheric Pollution
in the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) of
Fifteenth Session of Commission on Sustainable Development
(CSD-15)
New York, February 28, 2007 (Morning session)**

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to make this contribution on behalf of Group of 77 and China to our discussion on Air/Atmospheric Pollution. We thank the Panelists for their important presentations.

2. Air/Atmospheric Pollution is a major challenge faced by the world today and impacts all of us in so many different ways. Importantly, our ability to effectively address air pollution is fundamental to our pursuit of promoting sustained economic growth and sustainable development, Our approach in dealing with pollution issues is, therefore, built around the high priority accorded by developing countries to economic growth and poverty eradication.

3. The decisions concerning the fight against air/atmosphere pollution should be guided by the understanding that economic development, social development and environmental protection are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development. In this context, G-77 reiterates the continuing relevance and importance of all the Rio principles, in particular principle 7 on Common but Differentiated Responsibilities.

4. The Chapter 9 of Agenda 21, the JPOI, and the Decision 9/2 adopted by the CSD-9 on “Protection of the Atmosphere”, outlines a clear roadmap of

actions required at the international, regional and national levels, and indicate areas where international cooperation is required to effectively combat air/atmosphere pollution.

5. Air pollution has serious negative impacts on human health, socio-economic development, ecosystems and cultural heritage. Urgent and effective actions are, therefore, required in regard to both indoor air pollution from traditional biomass cooking and heating and ambient air pollution from all sources. Indoor air pollution, we believe, must be accorded high priority, as it is in its worst form, a poverty-related manifestation.

6. Air pollution is also increased by factors such as: natural disasters including volcanic eruptions, sand storms, desertification and land degradation, which cause health problems and disrupt peoples' daily lives.

7. Adequate policies must take into consideration the special needs of developing countries, particularly those in Africa, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

8. We would also like to emphasize the needs of countries emerging from conflict in the areas of capacity building, technical cooperation and infrastructure development.

Mr. Chairman,

9. The most important and perhaps the most formidable task before us is to overcome the inadequacy of financial resources and to secure access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

10. Similarly, we also need to address the challenges of substantial cost of monitoring and abatement technologies; lack of adequate funding to sustain and replicate successful demonstration projects; and lack of adequate scientific research capabilities on the health impacts of many pollutants.

Mr. Chairman,

11. To address the challenges of Air/Atmospheric Pollution, we need to take actions at all levels. In this regard, Group of 77 and China suggest the following policy options for consideration by CSD-15:

12. **Firstly**, we call for enhanced international cooperation that should enable developing countries to implement national plans and strategies through:

- Modernization of thermal electric power plants;
- Fuel switching – from biomass and coal to liquid petroleum gas, biogas or electricity; dissemination of improved cook stoves;
- Establishment, monitoring and enforcement of air quality standards;
- Expanded utilization of renewable energies;
- Capacity-building, research, education and training, and institutional strengthening in preventing and combating air pollution;
- Improving the compilation, evaluation and analysis of data on the state of the atmosphere and air pollution and knowledge of developments in policy-making and planning;
- Development and introduction of cleaner fuels and air pollution abatement technologies, and the sharing of practices and experiences;
- Transfer of affordable, efficient and environmentally-sound technologies on favorable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, for cleaner operating vehicles, traffic management, cleaner fuels, including advanced fossil fuels, and alternative fuels, including renewable fuels, inter alia, through the

involvement of the private sector, in order to address the technological gap;

- Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns, with developed countries taking the lead;
- Identification of financial, technological and institutional barriers and constraints that we are facing in combating air pollution, especially in metropolitan areas;
- Promotion of synergies in the implementation of all relevant multilateral environmental agreements, including the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the UNFCCC, the CBD and the UNCCD;
- Encouraging Member States, to the extent that they have not yet done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to the Montreal Protocol and its amendments;
- Enforcing international control over illegal trade in ozone-depleting substances, by providing, as appropriate, adequate resources;
- Strengthening systematic observation of the Earth's atmosphere by improving ground-based monitoring stations, increased use of satellites, and appropriate integration of these observations to produce high-quality data that could be disseminated for the use of all countries, in particular developing countries;
- Supporting international monitoring programmes, such as the Global Climate Observing System;
- Supporting existing regional agreements for improved air quality and control of transboundary air pollution; and encourage countries affected by transboundary air pollution to cooperate in regional and sub regional frameworks to reduce transboundary air pollution involving not only monitoring and abatement but also research and policy formulation;
- Commissioning studies to improve knowledge on transboundary air pollution from ozone, particulates and persistent organic pollutants, as well as on the impacts of air pollution and future risks of different development pathways;
- Improving methods to quantify and assess air pollution;

- Supporting national efforts to discontinue use of inefficient and un-vented cook stoves through expansion of modern energy services such as improved biomass and cleaner cooking fuels important to mitigate indoor air pollution;
- Supporting Partnerships for Clean Fuels and Vehicles in our efforts to complete the global elimination of leaded gasoline and support other such initiatives, including at national level, aimed at reducing the sulphur content of vehicle fuels, as well as the emission of serious air pollutants from other sources;
- Transition to the use of liquid and gaseous fossil fuels and renewable energy including by creating appropriate investment conditions for LNG production and utilization to reduce air pollution;
- Development of early warning systems and other cooperative mechanisms;
- Implementation of social and environmental responsibility at the corporate level.

Mr. Chairman,

13. **Secondly**, at the national level, taking into account their respective national priorities and circumstances, Governments should be encouraged to consider:

- Improving data compilation and monitoring of air quality;
- Identifying, assessing and addressing the adverse effects of air pollution on human health, socio-economic development, ecosystems and cultural heritage;
- Further developing and implementing air quality strategies, which include air pollution control and air quality management;
- Improving policies that reduce environmental hazards,
- Encouraging policy coordination and integration and the involvement of all stakeholders;
- Promoting and providing incentives to the dissemination of best available and affordable techniques to improve air quality;

- Enhancing capacity building, institutional strengthening and involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the work for improved air quality.
- Promoting clean public transport alternatives;
- Making available an adequate technology to curb burning of garbage from local heaps and national land fills and outlaws incineration of garbage emitting toxic fumes;
- Increasing public awareness;
- Adopting regulatory options and possible measures.
- Increasing controls on pollution emissions for transportation vehicles and industry.

Mr. Chairman,

14. It is our hope that the outcome of the IPM and eventually that of the CSD-15 will facilitate the implementation of policy options to reduce air pollution.

I thank you.
