

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Permanent Mission of the
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
to the United Nations
New York



البعثة الدائمة
لدولة الامارات العربية المتحدة
لدى الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

Statement by

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan

Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the United Arab Emirates

At the High-Level Event on Climate Change entitled:
“The Future in our Hands: Addressing the Leadership Challenge
of Climate Change”

New York – 24 September, 2007

Please check against delivery

Your Highness

Your Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen

Mr. President

It gives me great pleasure to express to you, on behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, our deep gratitude and appreciation for your efforts in directing the work of this important meeting. And in this occasion I would like to commend H.E Secretary General for convening this meeting and for his endeavors and effort to mobilize the international efforts towards taking the necessary steps to deal with the climate change challenges which are becoming a real threat to humanity and future generations. I also should not fail to commend the expert group on climate change for the valuable information they provided on this serious phenomenon.

Mr. President,

The United Arab Emirates concern about climate change is not new; it is a continuation of the convictions of the founder of the UAE and its first President H.H the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who had recognized many decades ago, the importance of protecting and preserving the environment. Acting out of the same convictions, the UAE adopted in 2002 the national environment strategy and its plan of action, which considers conservation and protection of the environment as one of the main pillars to the achievement of sustainable development, and ensured the

integration of environment dimension in all aspects of development activities.

The UAE recognizes the scope and seriousness of the challenges emanating from the climate change, and the threat they pose to peace, security and stability in many countries, especially developing ones. Preceding from a firm belief that dealing with those challenges requires global partnership and effective cooperation between developed and developing countries, the UAE was very keen on acceding and committing to all international and regional treaties and protocols on environment and sustainable development, in addition to taking effective initiatives in sponsoring and supporting international activities in these fields, especially those related to climate change. In this context, I am glad to share with you the UAE experience and participation in the international efforts to deal with climate change phenomenon as demonstrated through the launch of an initiative to establish a new economic sector focusing on alternative permanent energy sources called Masdar Program. It is intended to assist in guiding and diversifying the economy and maintaining stability in the international energy market, transference to Masdar for technology and contributing in sustainable human development through four main elements: Technology, transference, human resources and infra structure .Masdar Initiative includes six strategically important that include : Masdar Institute for science and technology unit which focuses on advanced technology and support technology for developing the economy of information through an international cooperative research network; Investment and Renovation unit which manages relevant investment funds; Special Enterprises unit which works on developing special projects, wide range strategies and capital intensity; and Carbon Management unit which focuses on developing the

management of carbon reduction projects aiming to gain opportunities for marketing local carbon according to the Kyoto Protocol and the establishment of Masdar Area (the green city) which is a complete green assembly of commercial businesses , research and industry that aims to achieve zero carbon and zero environment disposals.

Mr. President,

The UAE has applied many effective measures in the areas of renewable energy, air pollution and desertification as well as emission reduction and clean energy production such measures include enforcing zero emission policies in all activities related to oil industries, mainstreaming the use of unleaded fuel, and the use of low phosphor content fuel and Diesel and natural gas in the transportation sectors. We also succeeded, through the national strategy and program of action for desertification, in increasing the green areas inside the urban cities as well as the desert areas, which contributed significantly in the reduction of Carbon Dioxide in the air.

And last April the UAE announced the government's strategy which aims to achieve sustainable development in all sectors within the general environment standards. The infra structure sector plays an essential role in such strategy where it focuses on increasing the energy efficiency in business projects , defining and following the most effective ways for energy consumption.

In order to mobilize national, regional and international efforts in areas such as energy for the future and advanced technology for energy, the UAE hosted last February the world summit on sustainable Energy Resources in Arid regions and it is preparing to host the first World Summit on Energy for the Future in January 2008.

Mr. President,

The UAE emphasizes the importance of reinforcing global partnership in dealing with the climate change. This calls for developed countries to play a more effective role and commit to the implementation of the outcomes and recommendations of treaties ,international conferences on environment and sustainable development , especially UNCCC (which still represents the main frame of reference for policies on climate change) and the recommendations of the international conference on financing for development. We also call for taking necessary cautions in looking at endeavors aiming to enforce high ratios of emission reduction after Kyoto's first commitment period (2008- 2012) as it will have serious effects on the interests and economies of oil producing and exporting countries. It is imperative to provide the necessary financing for developing countries and facilitate their access to new technology in order to strengthen their capacities for adaptation, implementation of mitigation measures and the production of clean sustainable energy. We also call for further international efforts to deal with the causes leading to the environment deterioration in the developing countries.

We also would like to renew the UAE support for the Secretary General efforts towards dealing with those challenges, and we reiterate that the UAE will continue its efforts and contributions, on the national and international levels, to do what is needed in order to mitigate climate change and reduce its negative effects.

I thank you.