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- Keynote speech -

I am delighted to be with you today. Thank you for your warm Catalan hospitality, which is matched only by the beauty of your capital, Barcelona.

We meet at a critical time ... a moment of challenge and change. The headlines speak of crises in fuel, flu, food, and the financial system. Underpinning all of these is the issue of climate change.

No nation can deal with these problems alone. Not least, the climate crisis. It is an inherently global issue requiring a global solution if we are to

prevent catastrophic changes to our planet, and massive instability to our political and socio-economic systems.

Next month, the world's governments will gather in Copenhagen to find a way forward on a global climate agreement.

Never has the imperative to cooperate been so clear. Our future will depend, quite literally, on how well we come together as a family of nations on this issue. Nothing less than Head of State leadership is needed if the world is to seize the opportunity that Copenhagen affords us. An opportunity to stem the steep rise in greenhouse gases and to strengthen efforts to adapt to climate impacts. It is also an opportunity to forge a new path to global prosperity and security based sustainable, green growth.

Indeed, climate change is far more than an environmental issue. It cuts across all sectors – energy, agriculture, security and trade. As UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon has said, climate change will rewrite the global equation for peace, development and prosperity in the 21st century.

Like an earthquake fault line, climate change will destabilize the global landscape. It will increase pressure on water, food, and land. Reverse years of development gains. Exacerbate poverty. Fragile states could falter and governments topple.

Some say tackling climate change is too expensive. The Secretary-General believes that precisely the opposite is true. The cost of inaction is unacceptably high. It will be paid in lives lost, potential squandered, and resources spent at a scale that will dwarf sums spent on the financial bail-outs.

Only global solidarity and leadership can minimize these risks.

That is why in September, the Secretary-General convened a Climate Change Summit at the United Nations, which was attended by 101 Heads of State and Government and included 163 countries. This was history's largest gathering of world leaders on climate change.

This issue – and the imperative to reach agreement at Copenhagen - is now at the top of the international agenda where it belongs.

A collective political vision emerged from the Summit. All concurred that we need a global agreement to tackle this global issue.

From his first days in office, the Secretary-General has consistently urged leaders to make climate change a priority. He has argued that it is the key to unlocking so many other global challenges: economic growth, sustainable development and the MDGs, peace and prosperity for all.

Time and again, leaders at the Summit signaled their determination to seal a comprehensive, fair and effective deal at Copenhagen. This was enormously encouraging. Now we need to see these words translated into action on the negotiating floor.

Climate change threatens markets, economies and development gains. It can deplete food and water supplies, provoke conflict and migration, destabilize fragile societies and even topple governments.

Is this mere exaggeration? Not to the hungry residents of northern Kenya or the increasingly beleaguered farmers of California. Not to the citizens of the Maldives, already wondering how long their country will stay above

water, or the tens of millions of people in cities from Shanghai and New Orleans to Amsterdam and Karachi, who face inundation from sea rises. Not to the hundreds of millions of the world's poorest people who have little defense against storms, floods and droughts that each year seem to get more intense.

According to the UN, climate-related disasters drove 20 million people from their homes last year, on a par with the number of people were displaced around the world as a result of conflict. On average over the last decade, ten times this number – some 211 million people – were affected by natural disasters. The UN expects these numbers to rise as given the extreme weather, flooding, droughts, storms and rising sea levels associated with climate change.

In our inter-connected world, a disaster local in origin can quickly become regional or even international in consequence.

The effects of climate change will affect us all, though not all equally. No country will remain immune

Such statistics demonstrate that climate change is becoming the pre-eminent geo-political issue of our time. It is a political challenge, a food crisis, a humanitarian crisis and an economic crisis rolled into one.

We must move forward this year in addressing climate change with the urgency and highest level political leadership it requires. The stakes are simply too high not to do so.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United Nations and especially the General Assembly during its 62nd session have started to deal with the Climate Change issue in a more comprehensive and profound way from various aspects.

Member states have dealt with such issues as the private and public partnerships for tackling the global warming; partnerships with business, civil society, regional and local government to deliver maximum impact and respond to the many different challenges climate change poses.

Special attention was devoted to the peace and security issue within the topic of the most vulnerable countries, including the Security Dimension of Climate Change.

Throughout their debates member states recon the impact of Climate Change on Security by: increasing human vulnerability; retarding economic and social development; triggering responses that may increase risks of conflict, such as migration and resource competition causing statelessness and straining mechanisms of international cooperation.¹

Allow me now to address a few ways in which climate change could affect security:

- (a) **Increases Vulnerability**: Climate change will bring more weather-related disasters and threaten stable food and clean water supplies. This of course has direct effects on human health, economic and political stability, and possible. Just think of the dozens of food riots that occurred around the world in 2008.

¹ See: Climate Change and its possible Security Implications, Report of the UN Secretary General, A/64/350

- (b) **Undermines Development**: If climate change slows or reverse the development process, this could undermine the capacity of states to maintain stability.
- (c) **Contributes to Migration**: We can expect to see an increase in both short- and long-term migration as a result of sudden natural disasters as well as changing weather, land and agriculture patterns. Tens of millions of families will be affected. This could increase the risk of domestic conflict over land and other resources. It could also have international repercussions.
- (d) **Potential for Statelessness**: Climate change has implications for rights, security, and sovereignty should territories erode or even disappear.

Climate change is often viewed as a “threat multiplier”, one that exacerbates existing threats.

To help lower the risk of climate-related insecurity, we must re-double our efforts to address both the cause and consequences of climate change.

That is why a comprehensive, fair and effective climate deal is crucial. It will help stabilize our climate, protect development gains, assist vulnerable nations adapt to climate change, and build a more secure, sustainable and equitable society.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The task now is to translate the collective vision at the UN’s September Summit into bold, constructive proposals on the negotiation floor. Copenhagen does not need to resolve all the details, but it must succeed in

establishing a framework for progress on fundamental issues. It must provide a deal that involves all countries, consistent with their capabilities, working toward a common, long-term goal to limit global temperature rise to safe levels consistent with science.

I have four benchmarks for success of a global climate deal. First, every country must do its utmost to reduce emissions from all major sources.

Industrialized countries have to strengthen their mid-term mitigation targets, which are currently nowhere close to the cuts that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change says is needed.

Developing countries too must slow the rise in their emissions and accelerate green growth as part of their strategies to reduce poverty. A deal must also address all major sources of greenhouse gases, including from deforestation and emissions from shipping and aviation.

Second, a successful deal must strengthen the world's ability to cope with inevitable changes. In particular, it must provide comprehensive support to the most vulnerable -- those who are on the frontlines of climate impacts. Support for adaptation is not just ethically necessary; it is a smart investment in a more stable, secure world.

Third, a deal needs to be backed by money and the means to deliver it. Developing countries need funding and technology so they can move more quickly toward low-emissions green growth. Without proper financing, and without unlocking private investment, including through carbon markets, the solutions we discuss cannot be realized.

Fourth, a deal must include an equitable global governance structure that addresses the needs of developing countries. Resources must be managed and deployed in a way that all countries have a voice.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Leaders have provided the high-level political support needed to make ambitious progress in the negotiations. The challenge now before us is to harness the strong political momentum from the summit into tangible progress in the negotiations.

As we speak, government negotiators are meeting in this city in the UNFCCC sponsored climate talks. This is the last negotiating session before the Climate Change Conference opens in December.

We have made significant progress - at the Summit and in national capitals. But are not there yet. There is still a lot of work to be done, and there is not much time to do it.

The clock is ticking. It is time for governments to translate words into deeds, and table concrete proposals that can help the world move closer to a fair, comprehensive and effective climate deal this year.

The Secretary-General will continue to support the President of the Conference of Parties, Denmark, and all Member States as they travel the road to Copenhagen. He will continue to serve as the voice of the voiceless – those who are suffering most from climate impacts and bear least responsibility for the cause. And as a universally-recognized neutral broker,

he will help facilitate dialogue and encourage trust-building wherever possible.

The United Nations will also continue to facilitate the global climate change negotiations, bringing together all Parties in the world's only truly representative platform.

In sum, The United Nations will continue to do all it can to assist governments in reaching an agreed outcome in December.

But at the end of the day, the responsibility for sealing a deal in Copenhagen rests clearly on the shoulders of world leaders and their governments. This crisis occurs on their political watch, and can only be solved through decisions.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The threats posed by climate change are real. But so, too, are the possibilities for changing course. We must act upon what we already know.

We have no excuses for inaction. We know what needs to be done. We know we are the cause of the climate crisis. We therefore must provide the solution.

If there is one lesson to be learned from the climate crisis and the multiple global crises of the past year it is this: we share one planet, one home. As people, as nations, as a species, we are in this together.

Therefore, failure at Copenhagen will not only mean less confidence in this multilateral process, as UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer recently stated, but above all another step towards a less safer world.

And it is even more than that: a Mission to make the world a better place for living for the generations for come.

Let us move forward in genuine global partnership for a safer, more prosperous world for all.

Thank you.