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**Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**

**Letter dated 6 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative
of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the
General Assembly**

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Islamabad Declaration, which was adopted at the second South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN-II 2006), held on 20 and 21 September 2006 in Islamabad (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you could arrange to have the present letter and its attachment circulated at the earliest opportunity as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54.

(Signed) Munir Akram
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 6 November 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

**Second South Asian Conference on Sanitation
Islamabad, 20-21 September 2006**

ISLAMABAD DECLARATION

We, the Heads of **Delegations** from **Afghanistan**, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Maldives, **Myanmar**, Nepal, **Pakistan** and Sri **Lanka participating** in the South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN) **in Islamabad, Pakistan, September 20-21, 2006**, which was attended by the Ministers, State Ministers, senior civil servants, professionals from sector institutions, **academia**, civil society, **non-government organisations**, development partners **and** the private sector,

- i) **Recognizing that Sanitation being** the basic **human** need is essential for improvement of environment, **health and quality of life in participating** countries;
- ii) **Mindful that half of the population in participating** countries have no access to proper **sanitation and about** one million men, women and children **reportedly** die annually due to water **and sanitation** related **diseases**;
- iii) **Being aware that poor sanitation and related health** issues need pursuance of strategies in solid and liquid wastes **management**, provision of proper sanitation facilities for **improvement** of hygienic environment; and that sanitation has close relationship with **disposal** of domestic, hospital, agriculture and industrial wastes; and being equally *aware* of the *need* to improve social delivery system, human settlement and better urban **planning** for ensuring improvement in sanitation; and
- iv) **Noting, with acknowledgement, that the first South Asian Conference on Sanitation held in Dhaka, People's Republic of Bangladesh, October 21-23, 2003 facilitated** the participating **countries for the** formulation of *sanitation policies*, strategies and resolved to accelerate their implementation by the countries of the region and that the first conference on Sanitation also provided opportunities to the participating countries to share their experiences for meaningful improvement in the sanitation sector.

We the participating countries reaffirm *our* commitment and political will to achieve the targets of basic sanitation in **pursuance** of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Dhaka Declaration and that we further reaffirm at Islamabad to accelerate progress for achievement of adequate sanitation delivery system in a planned and phased manner by:

- i) According high priority to sanitation:
- ii) Strengthening inter-governmental cooperation in this region by activating the SACOSAN Inter-Cooney Working Group comprising of senior level representatives from the member countries to meet annually;
- iii) Discussing progress on all aspects of sanitation on a regular basis by reporting at the next South Asian Conference on a common set of indicators to be developed by the **inter-country working group**;

- iv) Continuing to promote equity in our societies by striving to reach more effectively the hardcore **poor and other disadvantaged** communities through a combination of **participatory approaches**;
- v) Striving tirelessly to increase *the* priority, **including** financial, given to sanitation by the **stakeholders**; and
- vi) **Promoting** active **participation** of women and children in all the activities relating to the sanitation sector.

Agreeing **that momentum gained at first and second SACOSANs will** be further continued through hosting of third SACOSAN by **India** in 2008, fourth by Sri Lanka in 2010 and fifth by Nepal in 2012.

Finally we profess our **profound appreciation** to the *Government of* the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for successfully hosting the **Second South Asian Conference** on Sanitation (SACOSAN-2). We are grateful *for* being **accorded** such a warm and **hospitable** welcome and *stay by* the Government of **Pakistan** and **thank** the Government and the **people** of Pakistan for **making** this conference such a success.

(**Makhdoom Syed Faisal Saleh Hayat**)
Honorable Minister for **Environment**,
Islamic Republic of **Pakistan**

(**Mrs. Saryt[anta PatI**)
Honorable Minister of State for
Rural Development and Parliamentary Affairs
Government of **India**

(**Mr. Copal Man Shrestha**)
Honorable Minister for **Physical Planning, &**
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(**Dr. Chea Samnang**)
Director Department of Rural Health
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(**Mr. Rohana Dicanayake**)
Honorable Deputy Minister of Highways & Urban Development and Water Supply Democratic Socialist
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(**Mr. Fiazullah Kalcar**)
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(**Mr. S. M. Jahrul Islam**)
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(**Mr. Guo t4inglin**)
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