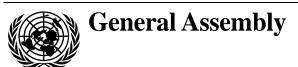
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# **Sixty-first session Second Committee**

Agenda item 54

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 indust<sup>r</sup>ial 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 an 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**;

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- 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, & Works Government of Nepal (Dr. Chea Samnang)
Director Department of Rural Health
Republie of Cambodia

#### (Mr. Rohana Dieanayake)

Honorable Deputy Minister of Highways & Urban Development and Water Supply Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

## (Mr. Fiazullah Kalcar)

Honorable Deputy Minister for Health Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

#### (Mr. S. M. Jahrul Islam)

Secretary, Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Cooperatives People's Republic of Bangladesh

#### (Mr. Guo t4inglin)

Director of International Cooperation

Chinn National Development and Reform People's Republic of China

### (Ms. Marsita Listyasari)

National Development Planning Agency, Republic of Indonesia

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## (Mr. Ahmed Abdullah)

Honorable Minister of Environment, Energy & Water, Republic of Maldives

( **Dr. San Sbway Wynn** ) Deputy Director (General (Public Health)

Department of Health, Ministry of Health Union of Myanmar

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