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**DECLARATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION
AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH,
THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES**

We, the Representatives of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Maldives and the European Union and its Member States, meeting in Dhaka (Bangladesh) on 30-31 May 2010

HAVING regard to the political engagement of People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Maldives and EU countries in Climate Change policy dialogue and cooperation.

Maldives

WELCOMING the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) between the EU and poor developing countries vulnerable to climate change, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), designed in particular to increase their capacity to adapt to climate change and pursue sustainable development strategies.

NOTING that the GCCA will provide a platform for dialogue, into which this Declaration feeds, as well as practical cooperation in support of the international negotiations on an ambitious post-2012 climate change agreement and of effective measures at national and regional level.

WELCOMING the other GCCA-relevant Declarations, including the May 2008 Cariforum-EU Declaration on Climate Change and Energy, the November 2008 Declaration by the Pacific Islands Forum States and the EU on Climate Change, the December 2008 Africa EU Declaration on Climate Change and the May 2009 EU-ACP Declaration on Climate Change and Development.

STRESSING that climate change is a serious global challenge which demands urgent, cooperative and shared responsibility to act and being DEEPLY CONCERNED that it is becoming a major threat to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by reversing progress made in the last decade; AWARE of our vulnerability to climate variability and change, and DEEPLY CONCERNED that the most vulnerable populations live in developing countries, in particular in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States where sea level rise and increased salinity, storm surges and cyclones, glacial melting, erratic rainfall, flooding, drought and desertification are threatening development progress.

RECALLING that climate change is a danger to equitable and sustainable development and that adaptation strategies should seek to manage risk, support developing countries and their populations in building their resilience to climate change impacts, and ensure efforts to eradicate poverty are not frustrated.

REITERATING that efforts to tackle and adapt to climate change should be integrated into poverty reduction strategies and/or national strategies for sustainable development so as to address both adaptation to the adverse effects and mitigation of the causes of climate change. Being concerned that climate change threatens food, health, livelihood and water securities.

RECOGNIZING that social and economic development and poverty eradication are the overriding priorities of developing countries and that a low-emission development strategy is

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inter alia, in the process of ensuring energy security, indispensable to sustainable development.

RECOGNIZING the interlinkages between adaptation and mitigation to climate change as well as the fight against desertification, deforestation and biodiversity loss, and in that regard RECOGNIZING the importance of sustainable land management, and properly functioning ecosystems.

RECOGNIZING that combating climate change can also contribute to the eradication of poverty, including energy poverty, and sustainable growth.

ACKNOWLEDGING women as key actors in the efforts towards sustainable development and that a gender perspective is essential to address climate change.

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RECALLING that *the Copenhagen Accord* of 18th December 2009 calls for a goal of holding the global increase in temperatures to below 2 degrees Celsius, with an assessment of the implementation of the Accord by 2015 to include consideration of strengthening the long-term goal referencing various matters presented by the science, including in relation to temperature rises to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

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ACKNOWLEDGING that *the Copenhagen Accord* noted that deep cuts in global emissions are required according to science. In this respect, cooperation should be ensured in order to achieve the peaking of global emissions as soon as possible, recognizing that the time frame for peaking will be longer in developing countries and bearing in mind that social and economic development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries.

FURTHER STRESSING that, for the long term global goal to be credible, it is required that all developed countries take the lead by committing to ambitious and comparable legally binding emission reduction targets.

ACKNOWLEDGING in this context that a global transition to a low-carbon economy and society is essential and both affordable and achievable, supported by finance and transfer of technology, and NOTING that the transition presents many opportunities for investment, growth and job creation and requires major efforts to enhance sustainable consumption and production patterns, as well as sustainable lifestyles.

NOTING further that given the global nature of the climate change challenges, this transition to a low carbon and sustainable economy requires a strengthened, equitable and effective global climate change agreement which can enable and support long-term cooperative international, regional and domestic actions.

UNDERLINING our joint commitment to the objectives and principles of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol and agreeing on the necessity to conclude promptly negotiations on a strengthened and effective legally binding global agreement for the climate change regime after 2012 building on *the Copenhagen Accord*.

EMPHASISING that ongoing and potential responses to tackle climate change should not have major implications on present levels of financing for development, but could incur substantial additional costs on all countries.

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WELCOMING that under *the Copenhagen Accord*, developed countries commit to provide new and additional financial resources approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010 to 2012 with balanced allocation between adaptation and mitigation and that the *Copenhagen Accord* commits developed countries to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD 100 billion per year by 2020, from a variety of private and public sources.

EMPHASISING that the financial architecture providing this support must be governed by the principles of effectiveness, efficiency, equity, transparency, accountability, coherence, predictability and sound financial management.

FURTHER WELCOMING the European Council acknowledgement that fast start international public support is required to support adaptation, mitigation and capacity building with a special emphasis on vulnerable and least developed countries and the EU readiness to contribute with fast start funding of EUR 2.4 billion annually for the period 2010 to 2012.

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ACKNOWLEDGING the EU's decreasing emissions as evidenced by the yearly reports submitted to and verified by the UNFCCC, and taking note of the EU's efforts to further reduce emissions, particularly with regard to its 2008 Climate and Energy package that will deliver on the EU's ambitious commitments to fight climate change and promote renewable energy up to 2020 and beyond. Welcoming the EU's unilateral commitment to reduce its overall emissions to at least 20% below 1990 levels by 2020, and its readiness to scale up this reduction to as much as 30% provided certain conditions are met under a new global climate change agreement.

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CALLING on other developed countries to commit themselves to comparable emission reductions and on developing countries to contribute adequately according to their responsibilities and respective capabilities.

ACKNOWLEDGING the ongoing mitigation and adaptation efforts:

of the People's Republic of Bangladesh: in line with the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) focusing on adaptation through integrated approaches to economic development emphasizing the areas likely to be most adversely impacted; and also committing to follow a low carbon development path provided adequate international financial and technological support is available but without compromising the country's urgent need of accelerated economic growth and poverty reduction.

of the Kingdom of Cambodia in the areas of technical, regulatory and institutional capacity strengthening; energy efficiency and renewable energy development; reforestation, forest conservation and protection; promoting climate change-resilient agricultural practices and infrastructure development; improving water resource management and health care services; and enhancing coastal adaptation.

and of the Republic of Maldives in particular the efforts currently undergoing to achieve carbon neutrality by the year 2019; in combating sea level rise; strengthening land, beach and human settlements; protecting critical infrastructure; developing and strengthening the tourism sector's climate resilience; strengthening the health and water sectors; further protecting coral reefs and related sectors.

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AGREEING that even with the achievement of limiting climate change to 2 degrees Celsius, the global community will still suffer from unavoidable climate change and therefore adaptation must be treated with equal importance as mitigation.

RECOGNISING that climate change and mitigation and adaptation action have crucial implications for economic activity through production, consumption and international trade; AWARE that, in this regard, responding to climate change will require a fundamental restructuring across key economic sectors such as energy, industry, transportation and agriculture, which need to be addressed within other global regulatory frameworks, outside the UNFCCC.

FURTHER STRESSING the significance of the ongoing dialogue and promising works in relation to the design of the cooperation actions under the Global Climate Change Alliance in the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Maldives.

ACKNOWLEDGING in this respect that such efforts support the ongoing international negotiations on an ambitious post-2012 climate change agreement and effective and coordinated measures towards mainstreaming climate change at national level.

AGREE TO PROCEED AS FOLLOWS:

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Cooperate towards the successful conclusion of a post-2012 agreement under the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol and in the implementation of their respective commitments stressing the importance of properly addressing development issues reflected in the *Copenhagen Accord* of 18 December 2009.

Work together to mobilize political support for stronger action on climate change and to examine how the international framework could facilitate such action. This action should be guided by a shared vision for long term cooperative action. It should include perspectives on low-emission development strategies, climate-safe paths and enhanced climate resilience; provided that LDCs and the most vulnerable countries are supported by the international community in terms of transfer of adequate finances and appropriate technologies.

Cooperate to help, in particular, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States to adapt to climate change by reducing risks related to natural disasters and manage them better while supporting the integration of disaster risk reduction into policies and planning, in particular national development and poverty reduction strategies focusing on the prevention, mitigation and preparedness components.

Agree to enhance dialogue, involving relevant stakeholders at country and regional levels and to improve the integration of climate change considerations into country and regional development and poverty reduction strategies.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of the Maldives welcome the European Union's intention to assist and support them in their adaptation and mitigation efforts, through the Global Climate Change Alliance, and other appropriate instruments.

Recalling those commitments the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of the Maldives and the EU jointly identified, *inter alia*, the following immediate priorities for action:

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In the People's Republic of Bangladesh:

The GCCA will support implementation of "Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009" which focuses on i) Food security, social protection and health; ii) Comprehensive disaster management; iii) Infrastructure development; iv) Research and knowledge management; v) Mitigation and low carbon development; vi) Capacity building and institutional development.

The support will focus urgently, specifically on finance and transfer of technology in achieving energy security along a low carbon path.

The GCCA support will enhance capacity of communities towards adaptation in agriculture sector mainly food security in face of adverse impacts on crop productivity.

The GCCA will provide support to build national capacity for long term forecasting on weather and climate related natural disasters towards achieving a climate resilience society.

The GCCA will work together to build capacity and strengthen the effectiveness of the country's participation in the climate change negotiations as a priority for the designing of a support programme to gain greater benefits from the Clean Development Mechanism; global carbon market and REDD+ initiatives.

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In the Kingdom of Cambodia:

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The GCCA will support a national initiative entitled "Cambodia Climate Change Alliance: CCCA" to help ensure that climate change activities in Cambodia are nationally owned, led and aligned with Cambodia's development priorities, and are effectively coordinated and implemented through the following key priorities:

Strengthen National Climate Change Committee's capacity to coordinate national policy making, capacity development, and outreach/advocacy efforts, and to monitor the implementation of national climate change strategy;

Establish and put in operation a platform providing Cambodia with updated knowledge and learning opportunities on Climate Change; and

Provide access to key line ministries, agencies and civil society organizations to financial and technical resources to design, implement and monitor climate change adaptation interventions.

In the Republic of the Maldives:

The GCCA will support national initiatives to:

Strengthen knowledge and leadership in the Government of Maldives to deal with climate change issues both domestically and internationally;

Build adaptive capacity and climate resilience in key sectors through tangible pilot interventions;

Promote energy efficiency and increase energy access through renewable energy generation and distribution through low carbon options and public-private partnerships; and

Improve policy and institutional capacities in the public and private sectors to deal with adaptation and mitigation interventions that bring both developmental and climate change benefits.

The EU, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of the Maldives agree to appoint a joint technical group at the regional level to ensure appropriate follow-up action to this Declaration. The technical group will ensure inter-alia a coordinated approach and appropriate synergies in the translation of the above immediate priorities for joint action into meaningful and concrete cooperation activities. The technical group may be joined by other Asian countries that in the future may subscribe to this Declaration.



On behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

State Minister of Environment and Forests

Hasan Mahmud



On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment

Thuk Kroeun Vutha

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Maldives

Minister of Housing, Transport and Environment

Mohamed Aslam



On behalf of the European Union
Commissioner for Climate Action

Connie Hedegaard