

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

*Saudi Arabian Permanent Mission  
To the United Nations  
New York*



الوفد الدائم للمملكة العربية السعودية  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

Address by  
**H.E. Mr. Ali Ibrahim Al-Naimi,**  
**Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources**  
at the  
High-Level Meeting on Climate Change

United Nations General Assembly  
September 24, 2007

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Thank you Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to convey the greetings of the people and government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, and Saudi Arabia's appreciation for the attention given by the United Nations General Assembly to the issue of climate change. Saudi Arabia share the international community the concern towards this phenomenon and its potential impacts on mankind.

Ms. President,

The government of Saudi Arabia looks forward to begin negotiations for the second commitment period of Kyoto starting next year (2008). We look forward for working towards a successful agreement in this regard; an agreement that will take into account the interests of all Parties, in particular Developing Countries.

In achieving this agreement, I would like to emphasize the importance of building on the internationally agreed principles, norms and commitments made in the "Rio Declaration", in addition to the principles set forth in the Framework Convention on Climate Change and its associated legal instruments. One of the key principles, is the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities among developed and developing countries; and the principle of fair burden sharing; in addition to the principle of non-bias against specific goods in the framework of international trade when adopting policies for addressing climate change.

Mr. President,

Saudi Arabia wishes to express concern about the selective nature of policies and measures adopted by some industrialized countries to address climate change. In this regard, some countries are adding to already high existing taxes on petroleum products, while at the same time continuing to provide direct and indirect subsidies to both coal and nuclear power industries, which are more polluting to the climate and global environment. On top of that, market interventions are being made with the aim of influencing the relative cost of energy sources, leading to market distortions. All these measures will undoubtedly have a negative impact on world oil demand over the coming decades. This will negatively impact sustainable development in our country, and will result in us shouldering much more than our fair share of the burden in combating climate change.

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In spite of our substantial efforts to achieve economic diversification and reduce our heavy dependence on the export of crude oil, we are still at the beginning of the road and we need the international community to cooperate with us to achieve this goal through technology transfer and the increased foreign investment. We trust that the new climate change agreement will include provisions to prevent discriminatory measures against oil, and help us and other Petroleum exporting countries to achieve economic diversification as a tool to increase resilience against the adverse impacts of response measures designed to address climate change.

Mr. President,

The call for moving away from fossil fuel consumption as a way to address climate change is not a viable or practical alternative to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly in light of the availability of carbon capture and storage as well as highly efficient technologies, which would allow the international community to continue using fossil fuels, but in a cleaner way. This continuation shall contribute to the protection of the global environment on one hand, and reduces the burden on the international economy and nations that depend heavily on oil exports on the other.

Therefore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia encourages the wide use of such technological solutions rather than aiming for dispensing fossil fuels or imported oil in a world of global interdependence. In this regard and to ensure continued access to the ample reserves of fossil fuels, the international community must intensify its efforts in the scientific research and technological development to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to achieve the global quest for sustainable development, from the use of these resources. From our side, we are ready to increase our contributions in this field through our specialized Research and Development centers and our universities lead by King Abdullah University for Science and Technology.

In conclusion, I can assure you that through the use of technological solutions the world can continue to rely on oil without harming the global climate. I also assure you that Saudi Arabia is ready to bear its fair share in addressing climate change and the impacts associated with it.

Thank you, Mr. President.