

STATEMENT
by H.E. Mr. Richard Brabec
Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic

Mr. Secretary-General, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Firstly, let me express my utmost gratitude to His Excellency Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. Ban Ki-moon for hosting such an important event. The Paris Agreement represents a historic achievement and an opportunity for gradual low carbon transition but still much work lies ahead of us.

How effective the Paris Agreement will be depends on forthcoming negotiations aimed at building new frameworks which will help Parties to implement and operationalize their actions at national levels. We strongly believe that the French and Moroccan Presidencies will build further on the momentum from Paris and provide necessary support to the Parties to start the implementation process as soon as possible.

I would like to point out that the Czech Republic considers today's signing ceremony and subsequent ratification of the Paris Agreement as two very important steps forward in a post-COP21 process and trust-building among all Parties.

The Czech Republic is committed to fulfil its obligations under the Paris Agreement. Jointly with the European Union and its Member States, the Czech Republic is ready to further reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2030 compared to the 1990 levels. In 2014, the Czech Republic reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by almost 37 percent compared to the 1990 levels which clearly shows our commitment to meet the mitigation goal of the Paris Agreement. Nowadays, we develop a new Climate Protection Policy, which will guide our transition towards the low-emission economy by 2050. The Czech Republic has also started the preparation of the so called Fossil Fuel phase out Law, which should define our pathway towards the low carbon economy until 2050. In addition to this, the Czech Republic has been investing significant financial resources in energy efficiency and green heating in various sectors including households and industry. The total budget for these measures will reach almost 3 bill. Euros by 2020.

We also need to integrate the challenge of resilience and adapt to negative impacts of climate change, especially extreme weather events, which has been experienced by the Czech Republic in recent years. Our Government has adopted a comprehensive Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change in 2015 and this Strategy will be implemented through its National Action Plan on Adaptation, which is currently under preparation.

As the universal action is required, we all must make sure that the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries will receive the support they need. The Czech Republic has pledged 5.3 mil. USD to the Green Climate Fund and contributed another 2 mil. USD to the German Climate Finance Readiness Programme. I would like to use this opportunity and assure you that the Czech Republic will continue to support the climate change mitigation and adaptation implementation of measures through its official development assistance.

The Paris Agreement gives a clear signal to investors, businesses and citizens that climate change represents serious threat but also an opportunity on the other hand. Active cooperation with private institutions, cities, regions, and organizations is crucial and must be enhanced. As an example of such a cooperation let me mention the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy which brings together thousands of local and regional authorities across Europe voluntarily committed to implementing climate and energy objectives.

We should be aware that all of us are responsible for our planet so we all must take share in future climate action.

Thank you for your attention.