

Statement by Mr Kimmo Tiilikainen, Minister of the Environment, Energy and Housing of Finland at COP23, Bonn, 16 November 2017

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank Fiji's presidency. We trust that you will lead us to a good outcome. We are with you.

Finland fully aligns itself with the statement by the EU and its Member States.

Mr President,

The Paris Agreement is irreversible, unstoppable and truly global. Together with the Agenda 2030 it paves our path towards a sustainable future. It's time to implement. We don't have time to waste.

This is clear from the latest reports of the World Meteorological Organization and UNEP. I also look forward to the IPCC report on the 1,5 degree goal that must guide our further work. To safeguard this important work, Finland has doubled its contribution to IPCC this year.

Finland is on track to achieve its 2020 emission reduction target. I am happy to announce that we have just deposited our ratification instrument for both the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol and the Doha Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol. But we are fully aware that more needs to be done. And we are taking further ambitious action:

- We will phase out the use of coal for energy by 2030.
- We will halve the use of fossil oil and the CO₂-emissions from road transport by 2030.
- We will do this by advancing renewable energy, electric vehicles and advanced biofuels as well as enhancing energy-efficiency.
- We are committed by our Climate Change Act to a long-term goal of at least 80 percent reduction by 2050. We will enhance our carbon sinks.
- With these measures we aim to be carbon neutral by 2045.

Cities, as producers of 70 percent of the world's greenhouse gases, have a crucial role in implementing the Paris Agreement. The potential of energy savings for example from the building sector is huge and remains largely untapped. I encourage all cities and towns to develop their own climate adaptation and mitigation plans – many have already done this.

Mr President,

In the Arctic, temperature is increasing twice as fast as elsewhere. The rising temperature will have serious consequences for the Arctic ecosystems and societies, indigenous peoples and local communities. The changes in the Arctic will not stay in the Arctic, but will have global consequences. For example, these changes will accelerate global sea level rise and impact weather far away.

These dramatic changes are happening now, in our time, not somewhere in the future. We need to be quicker and more ambitious. A key task is also to reduce the emissions of black carbon. If we tackle these emissions globally, it will yield results very quickly. And we have the means to do this.

I am proud to be here with Finnish municipal leaders, businesses, civil society, youth and our indigenous people, the Sámi. In Finland, we work closely with the Sámi Parliament in formulating our climate positions and policies. We expect that the Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Platform becomes a forum where Parties and indigenous peoples can learn from each other and tackle this challenge together.

Mr President,

Climate finance to developing countries is essential for achieving the Paris goals. In October Finland set up a joint climate fund with the International Finance Cooperation. The 114 million euro investment FUND will support renewable and clean energy solutions mainly in the poorest developing countries. The Finland-IFC blended finance for climate program is a new and innovative way to create markets and mobilize private investments in developing countries.

Let me conclude by stressing that - as the Fijian Presidency has showed us - we are all in this canoe together. Thank you.