

Statement of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events and their damage clearly emphasize that transforming the Paris Agreement into concrete action is vital for the security and prosperity of the whole planet.

Today, with appreciation for the hospitality of German Government, I would like to express my full support to the first small island Fijian Presidency, for their leadership and initiatives to develop draft decisions for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

In order to achieve goals of the Paris Agreement, the most important priority for all countries is successful implementation of ambitious and legally binding greenhouse gas emissions reduction commitments.

Shifting towards low carbon economic transformation, it is of key importance that greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets are translated into concrete policies in all sectors and that all authorities – national and local, as well as non-state actors, contribute to their implementation.

Lithuania, together with other members of the European Union, has taken a joint commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 40 percent by 2030. We are going to fulfil it by implementing the EU climate and energy policy.

Lithuania's experience proves that there is no contradiction between economic growth and environmental protection. Lithuania has three million inhabitants and is responsible for an insignificant part – *less than 0.04 percent* – of global greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, our emission levels in the last 25 years have fallen by almost 60 percent, while our GDP has increased by 30 percent, clearly demonstrating that economic growth can be decoupled from the increase of emissions.

In 2015 Lithuania used almost 26 percent of renewables in final energy consumption. The National Energy Strategy foresees increased use of renewables up to 45 percent in 2030 and up to 80 percent in 2050. We are improving energy efficiency by implementing ambitious modernization programs for multi-apartment and public buildings. We also plan to reduce the use of fossil fuel vehicles in cities by half till 2030 and to ban them in 2050.

Lithuania is voluntarily increasing climate financing to developing countries under bilateral cooperation projects by transferring technologies and using public finances to mobilize private sector investments.

We recognize achievements of the Bonn conference in some issues, but we need to accelerate work towards substantial progress in all issues related to the Paris work program, allowing adopting decisions in Katowice COP24 next year. Collaborative actions of stakeholders through the Global Climate Action Agenda provide a solid basis to move to a low-emission, climate-resilient global economy.

In order to guarantee that commitments are fully respected, robust accountability and transparency guidelines under the Paris Agreement have to be developed. We need to prepare for the 2018 facilitative dialogue and global stocktake process to review our collective efforts towards the goals of long-term mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation.

Mr Chair, dear colleagues, the only way to guarantee our safe future is to take efficient global actions implementing Paris Agreement.

Thank you for your attention!