

Opening Speech of the COP19/CMP9 President Marcin Korolec

Your excellency, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal future President of COP20/CMP10.

Distinguished Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – Dear Christiana Figueres.

Excellencies! Distinguished Delegates! Ladies and Gentlemen! Friends!

It is my last speech as the COP President and I promise it will be the shortest one I delivered over my Presidency. I remember how stressed I was a year ago when Minister Al-Attiah was handing me the gavel and I took charge of our Warsaw Conference and the process. I wanted the opening to be over as quickly as possible so I could get on with the tasks at hand. Today I'm quite relaxed doing my last lap of honour but I want to spare my good friend Manuel Pulgar Vidal at least a couple of minutes of stress.

It has been a great honour to serve as the COP President. An enormous task, full of stress, long-haul flights, sleepless nights and almost unsolvable problems. But it has been a very rewarding experience and very much worth the effort. After a year spent in meetings all-over the world I feel like my household has enlarged. I truly feel like we are one big family. Family trying to make sure we have a better tomorrow. Thank you for that enriching experience. Thank you all.

I hope you remember, that when opening Warsaw COP I promised you I would spare no effort to find a consensus. I stated my dedication to a party driven process. I promised transparency and I promised inclusiveness. I'm proud to say that we have truly delivered. Warsaw will

be remembered as the COP where all Parties made the process predictable and transparent. But here again I was just facilitating. YOU made all this possible. So most of the credit goes to you.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Warsaw we laid solid foundations for the new agreement. Since then the process moved on. It was a very busy year with some significant landmarks.

The UN Secretary General organised climate summit with the biggest in the history number of leaders demonstrating their dedication to the cause and pledging action to fight climate change.

Only last week when the Secretary General received me in New York we spoke about the Summit and its results. I mentioned that it was an honour for me to co-chair one of the summit's ministerial sessions. And I still marvel how encouraging and heart-warming it was to see politicians almost cry when Leonardo DiCaprio was making his passionate appeal to all of us to take action. And taking action we are.

Only couple of weeks ago in Berlin we finally started filling the Green Climate Fund with money. The Fund is now worth almost 10 billion US dollars. What a stunning beginning for the first donors meeting. And I know it's only a start.

In European Union we have been very busy. Last October we agreed a new emission reduction target of 40% to be delivered by 2030. Soon after that US and China came up with an important agreement on climate, including their possible commitments. Now, exactly as we agreed in Warsaw, we will translate these announcements early next year into contributions to the international agreement. These are the

milestones I am glad to see and it's great that Poland could be part of the stimulus behind them.

And talking about Poland, I hope that you not only appreciate results of COP19 and our performance as the Presidency but also that you have enjoyed Warsaw during the Conference. We, Poles are very proud of the changes over the last 25 years of regained freedom and it was a privilege that we could show you our capital and let you experience our culture first hand.

Through me as the COP President you had an opportunity to experience also some of our national features: stubbornness, never-die attitude, dedication to the cause, loyalty and solidarity. I tried to use them all to get an outcome that would be good for all. I hope you are satisfied with my performance.

The legacy of COP19 is significant. The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon himself praised us for building the foundations of the new agreement. We managed to agree decisions on financing, loss and damage and forests. Better involvement of business and cities is our landmark. If someone told me before Warsaw how much we would achieve I would take him for a mad. And yet, here I stand before you today and there is great satisfaction of how much we pushed the process forward.

Now, my last legacy is an initiative on education. I truly believe that it is of key importance how we educate our societies on climate as quite soon there will be 9 billion people on Earth. Only with better understanding of basic science and possible threats and ways to act we will be able to build adequate policies in our countries with sufficient public support. Poland will try to garner support of all Parties to stand behind a Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness Raising. The text

will be made available to all of you. My team and I will be available to meet you and consult should it be needed. Nelson Mandela once said: "Education is the most powerful weapon one can use to change the world". With your and the Peruvian's COP President's support we can bring back this important truth back into the spotlight, where it belongs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I promised the speech will be short so I have to wrap up. But I cannot finish without thanking my friends Manuel Pulgar and Laurent Fabius for agreeing to be involved in the process much earlier than they had to. I proposed the idea of a trio Poland-Peru-France working closely together to make the road to the international agreement a smooth highway. They agreed and we have been on this journey together from as early as Warsaw. I hope you will value that experience and I'm sure it will ease your way into the Presidency.

I also want to warmly thank – the ADP co-chairs, SB chairs, the Secretariat and personally Christiana, Richard, June and all others for excellent collaboration with me and my team. Please convey my words of gratitude to your teams. Working with you was a pleasure and a privilege.

Dear Manuel, I am sure that you will lead these negotiations very well. The gavel is yours.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends,

I was an honour, thank you, dziękuję, muchas gracias, merci beaucoup .