

**Statement by the Italian Minister of Environment, Land and Sea at
COP18/COP-MOP 8
(Doha, 6th December 2012)**

Mister President, Ministers, ladies and gentlemen,
the year 2012 is an important transition point, in fact

- the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will be completed;
- the current negotiations under the KP and LCA tracks are agreed to be concluded and
- a new track of negotiations for a future regime has started.

Unfortunately the year 2012 has also provided us with a clear demonstration of what dangerous climate change looks like and how much challenging climate change can be for both developed and developing countries.

Recent events have largely reconfirmed that mitigation actions after 2020 alone will not be sufficient to manage the climate change risks, and that substantial efforts prior to 2020 are essential to achieve the objective of the Convention in a cost-effective manner.

Last year the Durban Conference produced a balanced package that has all the elements to secure a firm basis to reach a fair, balanced, credible and global climate change regime able to put the world on a low emissions pathway.

Our duty here is not to lose the opportunity provided by the Durban agreement, and building on such agreement, take decisive actions to increase the short term mitigation ambition **and** agree on a new Protocol by 2015.

The finalization and adoption of a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol has to be considered a transition towards a framework applicable to all, therefore it cannot be the only Doha outcome, but it has to be complemented by other results.

In particular there is a need to increase the short term mitigation ambitious: Parties that will not be Part of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol should

signal their contribution to the common effort to increase the level of ambition before 2020 and commit to fully put in place concrete actions to deliver.

Italy, as a Member States of the EU, is committed to accept the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, but it is firmly convinced that a long term perspective is needed to effectively protect the global climate while promoting sustainable development, contributing to poverty eradication around the world and enhancing climate resilience of our society.

In such respect Italy is enhancing its strategy to put its economy on a low carbon pathway. Renewable energy sources and energy efficiency policies and incentives are key actions to reach this goal.

Incentives of about 6,7 billions of euro per year on solar and 5,8 billions of euro on the other renewables, has allowed Italy, in 2011, to be the first country in the world for new renewable energy capacity connected to the grid and the second for the total installed capacity.

On the other hand mitigation is not the only issue on our political agenda, but also adaptation has a prominent role. In fact Italy is developing its adaptation strategy to enhance climate resilient and reduce climate risk in our country. The strategy includes also financial resources needed to implement urgent actions estimated in about 2,5 billions of euro per year for the next 15 years

A clear, stable and international framework is needed to avoid fragmentation of individual actions. For this reason in Doha we need also to agree on a clear pathway to reach a fair, ambitious and binding deal by 2015.

Until now there have been many discussions on how to get to such deal, it is time now to capture the essential elements of such discussion in a work plan that keeps us on track to agree a new Protocol by 2015 and allow us to concentrate in 2013 on substantive discussion and in particular on how to ensure that the agreement in 2015.

We welcome the efforts putting in place so far by emerging economies, still, we need them to clearly commit to a global framework which has to be inclusive and equitable while reflecting evolving responsibilities and capabilities.

In an challenging economic scenario like the present one, the certainties of a long term binding Protocol applicable to all and able to capture the evolving reality, can provide us the means needed to strengthen and enlarge cooperation for emission reductions and for accelerating the world-wide transition towards a green economy.

We are ready to do our part and we are confident that here in Doha we can take another step forward in our common fight against global climate change.