

**High Level Segment Statement**  
**Belgium**  
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**State Secretary for Environment, Energy and Mobility and State Secretary for**  
**Institutional reforms**

Colleagues and friends,

Today, I address myself to you not as a minister but as part of a family, the human being family, and I am very proud to take the floor in this capacity!

Like all family, we share a home, our earth. Like every family, we have to take care of our home. A family is dynamic, new members are coming, some are leaving, others are growing... No matter how a family evolves, we always manage to adapt to changing circumstances because this is the course of life, development is part of our essence as human beings. But the goal is to go forward.

Our task today is to manage our home. We all are under duty to pursue and tackle our common challenge: to save our unique and common earth and its unique biosphere. When a family faces a challenge, all members are expected to contribute to their best endeavor. They are inevitably bound to each other, and the generosity of their efforts emulates one another. However, each member acts according to its own capacity, experience, responsibility...we are all part of the big puzzle. We have common challenges and we must face them together.

We already managed this challenge in 1992, when the Convention was adopted, and again in 1997 when the Kyoto Protocol was adopted. However, neither of these agreements succeeded in delivering sufficient reductions to tackle the biggest threat that climate change poses. That's why we must act now. Reaching an agreement here in Doha is an arduous task but as we say in French 'impossible n'est pas français'. Our way is paved with experience, we have to continue learning from each other, sharing and listening to each other if we genuinely want to step up our commitments and achieve a binding agreement now and later in 2015.

I believe that we can find an understanding once again that will ensure an equitable access to sustainable development for all. As "The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problem (Gandhi)". And for this, we need to step up our efforts, by improving and deepening our commitments, taking into account the evolving realities of all the members of the family. This creates challenges, but also opportunities. And this is why I want to see here the emergence of a 'stairway to ambition', fuelled by equity.

Socio economic development, poverty eradication, development opportunities, cost efficiency, competitiveness and other national circumstances are all factors to be taken into account, because each family member attaches different weights to these various aspects. And at the core of this debate lays the issue of differentiation according to responsibility and capability. This raises questions, such as the relation between mitigation and adaptation, how to share global mitigation

efforts as well as the costs and benefits of climate policies. New approaches to the architecture of mitigation commitments, informed by objective indicators of responsibility or capability, or both, may also be needed.

As a member of this family, I wish to see all members developing and offering the best of themselves, and I am convinced that if we want to go far, we need to go together.