

National statement – Germany – Minister Peter Altmaier

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Every day brings new insights. The picture is becoming crystal clear. Nobody can deny that we know more than enough about climate change to enable us to act - and to know that we have to act!

- If we don't act
 - some of us here in this room will soon lose their homes as a result of rising sea levels
 - and in 20 years time, all of mankind will have to admit: there is no going back - the window of opportunity for stopping climate change has closed.

- Sustainability and climate action are the key tasks for our generation. We are the first generation
 - to understand the long-term impacts of our actions
 - to have the technical means to tackle climate change and
 - to know that growth and climate action are not opposing goals, and that in the long term they can only be achieved hand in hand.

- Germany is serious about limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius.
 - Germany has not only met its Kyoto targets, it has exceeded them. We have already achieved a 26% reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions compared with 1990 (21% was prescribed), despite strong economic growth!

 - Germany has decided to reduce its emissions by 40% by 2020.

- We have already started a fundamental restructuring of our energy system to make it sustainable and renewable. By 2050 we want to cut our emissions by 80 to 95%.
We want to achieve this by focusing on innovation and efficiency.
The “Energiewende” means maximum climate action *and* maximum competitiveness at the same time!
- I want a global transformation of energy systems.
- We will increase our international climate finance budget from 1.4 billion Euro in 2012 to roughly 1.8 billion Euro in 2013.
- Doha has to send a positive signal:
 - with a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol
 - with ambitious additional reduction efforts by *all* countries *before* 2020
 - and, above all, with a clear roadmap leading us to a global agreement by 2015.
- People of my generation may still think in national terms as far as climate policy goes. But the interests of our children and grandchildren to take climate action are the same everywhere! Whether in China, the USA, Germany or on Kiribati. Those who recognise this fact understand what needs to be done.