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National Statement on behalf of Australia

High Level Segment

UN Climate Change Conference, Doha, Qatar

Thursday 6 December 2012

Mr President

Australia accepts that climate change is real and dangerous.

Australia accepts that it has to do its part. That it has to take action at home to cut its emissions.

That's why one year ago Australia legislated a clean energy future plan.

A plan that puts a price on carbon pollution in Australia.

A plan that puts us on track to meet our commitment to cut emissions strongly this decade. And puts us on track to meet our target of an 80 per cent reduction of emissions by 2050.

In July this year, Australia put this plan into operation.

This is a historic, hard-fought reform.

And now, Australia is ready, here in Doha, to join a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the first global treaty to set binding obligations on countries to reduce emissions.

If the deal is right, and we have been clear about our conditions, this Friday we will join 36 other countries planning to take a second Kyoto target.

We take this step in a clear context: that countries right around the world, both developed and developing, are increasingly taking real action to combat climate change.

And that all countries are working towards a new global agreement that will have legally binding commitments for all countries, including all major emitters, to be agreed in 2015 and start in 2020.

Because we all know the Kyoto Protocol alone is not nearly enough. To achieve environmental effectiveness, a more comprehensive agreement is essential.

And so, this week we are here to look forward.

To engage in discussions with political leaders from around the world on this new agreement, and on what further actions countries might take to reduce further our emissions this decade. These are the tasks on which the world expects us to make progress.

Mr President,

Last year in Durban, countries achieved a major breakthrough, of which we should all be proud. Here in Doha we need to carry that forward.

Australia is committed to delivering on Durban and doing our fair share. We call on others to do the same.