

**Statement of H.E. Peter Ziga,**

Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

At the COP 18, Doha, Qatar, 5th December 2012

Mr. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates:

Firstly, let me express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Qatar, and especially to His Excellency Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiyah for hosting this conference in this fabulous country.

Climate change is recognized for a long time as the most significant environmental challenge in front of us. The 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties in Doha was dubbed as the implementation conference even before it started and I have to say I strongly believe that these expectations will be fulfilled.

Negotiations towards efficient and legally framed regime to tackle climate change and adaptation are quite lengthy and thus it could be perceived that the goal is negotiation itself instead of implementation of all the smart solutions which are prepared to solve environmental challenge in front of us.

We all are facing adverse impacts of climate change, whether it is here in the Gulf Region or in the Central Europe. In both cases it is mostly connected with the water treatment, but other impacts are quickly looming. That is why Slovakia is now putting much bigger effort on adaptation both domestically by developing our own adaptation strategy and also via financial support of capacity building and adaptation projects in Africa and Asia.

Due to scale and intensity of adverse impacts we also need to enhance our mitigation effort. This is the only way how to save our ecosystems and increase chances of human beings to adapt.

Slovakia stands fully ready for further implementation of substantial mitigation policies and measures. We already have an experience in reduction of green- house gas emissions without sacrificing our standard of living. Our emissions in 2010 decreased by almost 36% compared to the 1990 level.

Slovakia as a member of the EU has already implemented comprehensive legal package to ensure our internal reduction targets by 2020. It proofs that we are prepared to continue in our mitigation effort further beyond. Therefore we are ready to extend the effect of the Kyoto Protocol by adopting its amendment. We consider it as very important to preserve all viable elements of the protocol.

At the same time we see this protocol as a transitional mean towards a new global agreement built on the similar principles and based on our experiences hitherto. We all know that whatever reduction effort limited only to the Kyoto Protocol countries will not solve environmental challenge we face. Therefore we have to urge everybody to commit diligently to the work of the ADP, which is the only relevant formation able to reach the new agreement by 2015.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The world outside the convention centre is waiting for a new agreement. We are accused of hindering the negotiation process. Only the agreement will pave the way for implementation of tangible actions.