

STATEMENT FOR THE PRESIDENT OF COP 19/CMP 9,

H.E. MR. MARCIN KOROLEC

High-level ministerial round table under the Kyoto Protocol

5 June 2014

Your Excellences', Heads of Delegation, ladies and gentlemen. Together with my co-chair, His Excellency Minister Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, President-designate of COP20/CMP10, I would like to welcome you to these high-level ministerial events.

Today we start with the high-level ministerial roundtable under the Kyoto Protocol and tomorrow we move into the high-level ministerial dialogue on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. Both events are open to all Parties and observer States as well as to observer organisations accredited to the UNFCCC.

To assist in your preparation for the events, I prepared two Information Notes – one for each event – to provide you with an overview of the issues, guiding questions and preliminary logistical information. I trust that you found these notes useful.

Distinguished delegates, the events you will participate in today and tomorrow both aim to identify ways to find new ways to deliver more concrete results that will help us keep on track of the long-term goal. Today we will focus on the progress made and the potential for increasing mitigation ambition under the Kyoto Protocol by assessing the progress made towards achieving the commitments for the second commitment period and identifying how these can be increased.

Tomorrow we will also address the issue of delivering concrete results for the climate, in the broader context of enhanced global action. Tomorrow's dialogue will provide an opportunity to discuss how to build the necessary confidence and momentum support fair and ambitious contributions under the Durban Platform and a strong agreement in 2015 informed by science as

recently summarized by the working groups of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

While they are linked in substantive terms, both events have their own objectives and are equally important. I look forward to your active and constructive participation.

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A year and a half ago in Doha, you adopted the amendment to Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol thereby extending the Kyoto Protocol for a second commitment period. The Protocol is seen by many as an important instrument which highlights the efforts and leadership of some Annex I Parties in global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

We are here today to look at what reductions were achieved this far and to seek for potential to increase ambition. Annex I Parties taking on commitments in the second commitment period were therefore requested to revisit them and provide information on their intention to increase their current levels of ambition.

Today we will consider the information received and together consider the current and projected reduction levels and look for potential for increasing ambition.

The secretariat has received four submissions so far – the European Union, Australia, Lichtenstein and Norway. These submissions have been placed on the UNFCCC website and I have requested the secretariat to present an overview on the information contained in these submissions.

Let us put our heads together today and approach this issue constructively.

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In my Information Note, I highlighted some issues of relevance to today's discussion. Scientific findings continue to stress the need for urgent global action to mitigate the effects of rising greenhouse gas emissions due to

human activity. The unprecedented rise in emissions highlights that more global action is required.

We have, however, seen evidence that the first commitment period achieved substantial reductions in emissions. It is important to note that the Protocol is the only, international agreement with legally binding commitments to reduce emissions. It is true, however, that emissions under the Protocol represent only a small percentage of global emissions.

The lessons learned from reducing emissions under the Protocol can also serve to inform the process under the Durban Platform as you devise a new, even more effective agreement for the future.

In keeping with these issues, I provided you with some guiding questions to help focus our discussion. The questions for this first round of interventions are as follows:

- o What is the status of implementation of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol? How can the ambition of mitigation commitments for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol be increased? What policies and measures have been deployed or are planned in this regard?
- o What is the status of ratification of the Doha Amendment? How can the entry into force of the Amendment be expedited?

We would like to request that all interventions address these questions especially highlighting in particular the actions taken or planned to increase ambition.