

Excellencies, delegates from all over the world, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, here in Copenhagen, we are beginning the historic 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference. Here in Copenhagen, governments of the world have come together to take a critical next step in addressing the greatest threat facing mankind—the threat of global warming, caused by anthropogenic emission of greenhouse gases. This threat was first signalled by scientists, and, in response, governments of the world agreed to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which is now the world's most important mechanism for addressing climate change.

We are all well aware that the world has exceptional expectations towards this Conference. As indicated in the Bali Action Plan, this Conference should set out the directions of fighting climate changes for several decades. Countries with substantial emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases should take specific commitments to reduce such emission. Developing countries, and especially the least developed countries, can expect great financial, technical and organizational assistance for adaptation to the climate change, but also for their quick social and economic development. It is nothing more than the simple human solidarity.

But the efforts for prevention of climate changes generate not only costs. They create also a great opportunity for all nations to introduce fundamental changes of their economic systems, with a chance for introduction of modern, effective and energy-saving technologies, and a chance to gradually abandon fossil fuels for production of clean energy from renewable sources.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear delegates from all over the world, here, in Copenhagen, we will be deciding of the future of our planet for next decades. It is a historic moment for entire planet and I think, that each of us should have the same feeling that we are taking part in a really remarkable meeting. This feeling should awaken the spirit of solidarity and compromise in us. In these historic moments, let us all see above our particular interests and, during negotiations, let us always keep in mind the whole, global problem and the common goal of this Conference. Only by acting in such a manner we will be able to reach a global agreement, an agreement which will serve the whole mankind. Let's do all we can to reach this goal.

Ladies and gentlemen, the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference is open.