

H.E DR BUJAR OSMANI, MINISTER OF HEALTH
Address by H.E Nexhati Jakupi, Minister of Environment and Physical Planning of the Republic of Macedonia
at the 16th Meeting of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change and the 6th Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol

-Cancun, December 2010, High Level Segment -

Excellencies, Dear Ms. Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC

Allow me, at the beginning, to express my pleasure with the progress in climate change issue addressing both in the Republic of Macedonia and at international setting.

The last year summit on climate change held in Copenhagen confirmed the high level of political maturity in the treatment of this issue, though approaches were different.

Proper address of climate change requires adequate responses in line with scientific evidences and predictions. Coherence between adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer, financing and capacity building (the four building blocks from Bali Action Plan) is a must.

An ambitious, comprehensive and legally-binding agreement under the UNFCCC should be our mutual goal.

In the segment of **mitigation** of climate change, enhanced action at national and international level (including measurable, reportable and verifiable nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions, and quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives by all developed country) are needed.

Nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing countries in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building, are also prerequisite for proper addressing the climate change.

Activities for mitigated climate change for our country will need to be balanced with the abatement potential and share of such activities in the gross domestic product

Republic of Macedonia joined the Copenhagen Accord thus affirming its commitment to contribute to the global efforts towards climate change abatement. We should now implement the activities under the Accord concerning diversification of national actions and actions requiring international support, costs estimate, determination of mechanisms and indicators for national actions

monitoring, etc., which will be part of the Third National Communication on Climate Change.

Our country faces the challenge of gradual capacity building for future participation in emission trading, which will require a set of technical, administrative and institutional measures in terms of data collection and reporting.

Proper address of the **adaptation** of the most climate change vulnerable sectors requires international cooperation in support of adaptation actions, including vulnerability assessment, prioritization of actions, estimate of required funds, capacity building and response strategies, incorporation of adaptation actions in the planning on national level, specific projects and programmes, as well as introduction of incentives for the implementation of adaptation actions. In addition, other ways are needed to enable climate resilient development in order to carry out the adaptation adequately. Segments of an adequate policy for climate change adaptation include building of solid knowledge basis, integration of climate change adaptation policies into other sectoral policies (agriculture, forestry, biological diversity, water resources and health) and joining together and supporting the wider international efforts. Republic of Macedonia acts in line with such policies, incorporating the issue of climate change in many strategic documents, which has been underlined in the latest Progress Report of the EU for our country in the process of Eurointegration. The Draft National Strategy for health sector adaptation to climate change has been developed, and climate change issues have also been incorporated in strategic documents concerning complex development of energy, use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. Adhering to integrated energy and climate change response policies, Macedonia is determined to increase the share of renewable energies in its overall energy consumption, from the current 15.3 percent up to 21 percent by 2020. I expect this course of action to be performed by other nations as well. Our efforts and political will go beyond reducing carbon emissions. An example of this

is the nationwide systematic forestation campaign that has, thus far, resulted with 20 million trees planted in just few days during each of the past 3 years. In the next decade, the Macedonian forests will expand by additional 100.000 ha of currently arid land. Once they reach the right age, these 100.000 ha of forests will annually absorb at least 250.000 tons of CO₂

It is our future task to carry out cross-sector analysis of the effects of climate change, and better understanding of socio-economic aspects, i.e. assessment of the costs and benefits of different options for adaptation and needs should be prioritized.

It will be necessary to enhance both public and private financial flows for undertaking measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as technology transfer and capacity strengthening. In other words, this would imply commitment that development paths of the national economy and development strategies of companies will incorporate climate change mitigation measures. The implementation of development scenarios will require joint efforts of stakeholders at national, regional and international levels, especially with regard to financing. In this context, the Republic of Macedonia is Signatory to the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative raised by Greece.

Climate change implies environmentally innovative approaches and technologies. Eco-innovations will become vital for the economic growth, competitiveness and employment. The key for the creation of new jobs, economic growth and welfare of the population is in the efficient environmental innovations that require high environment protection standards, combined with wide range of other economic instruments, such as reduced value added tax for energy efficient goods and services, green public procurements, etc. Therefore, climate change is at the same time challenge and opportunity for the sustainable development of the countries.

Thank you for the attention.