

**Statement of H.E. Jozsef Nagy,**

Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic

At the 17 COP, Durban, South Africa, 7 December 2011

Ms. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates:

Firstly, let me express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the South Africa, and especially to His Excellency Mr. Zuma and Her Excellency Ms. Mashabane for hosting this conference in this fabulous country.

Climate change is now recognized as the most significant environmental challenge in front of us. Slovakia is implementing substantial mitigation measures since the beginning of the nineties and has already achieved reduction of emissions by more than 40% compared to the 1990 level. Based on experiences we are ready and open to continue in maintaining principles of the Kyoto Protocol and in taking further reduction commitments for the next period.

You all know that Slovakia as a member of the EU has already implemented comprehensive legal package to ensure our internal reduction targets by 2020.

Let us not to forget that from environmental integrity perspective it is utmost important to secure significant reduction of emissions from all major emitters through a wide cooperation and a new legally binding agreement. Therefore we have to agree urgently on roadmap and timeline to achieve it.

As we all are more frequently facing adverse impacts of climate change, especially here in African countries with a high magnitude and damages. That is why Slovakia is now putting much bigger effort on adaptation both domestically by developing our own adaptation strategy but also in African countries where we support capacity building projects on adaptation.

I am very glad, that besides our engagement in political negotiations, Slovakia demonstrated at this conference new, innovative and practical solution to tackle climate change. Slovak company is establishing a joint venture with a South African company, which would produce ecological building material from the paper pulp waste without additional emission from burning. By this new technology we can both recycle the waste and at the same time decrease emissions from brick production.

For the first time will Slovakia have also a side event presentation in the premises of Standard Bank. We will focus on the topic of the green investment scheme in Slovakia and present our experiences with the greening of projects supported from the AAU revenues.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is still some time for us to deliver on promises we all gave earlier and thus show the world that we can keep our words. In our hand is the key for happiness of our children and future generations all over the world.