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United Nations Climate Change Conference 2011, COP 17 AND CMP 7

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The Statement of H.E. László BORBÉLY, Romanian Minister of the Environment and Forests, delivered at the High Level Segment of the Conference

Madam President,

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

in this warm and cosy atmosphere created by our admirable South African hosts, the key word we have heard revolving during the last days was: **to deliver**. Her excellences' Ban Ki Moon and Christiana Figueres stressed on this need for delivering, whilst our European Union Commissioner Connie Hedegaard, has come up with the same statement: Durban must deliver, the Kyoto Protocol has to deliver and multilateralism should deliver, as it has done so far.

I detect a mixture of confidence and concern from this wording. And the raising question is: what is actually missing for this way of deliverance? Is it a lack of deliverables, is the gear of the carrying vehicle malfunctioning or has the driver becoming too tired? Or maybe there is a different road under construction and everybody is expecting to commission the new highway?

From our point of view, the deliverables **are** there. We have worked hard upon them, from Bali to Cancun, going through the excessively blamed Copenhagen. We are all Parties fully aware about the needs and urgencies of the developing countries, particularly the most affected of them. We have a substantive technical framework, with consistent avenues for developments on financing, technology, inventories, reviews, MRV. Undoubtedly, we still have a lot of work to put on all this frames and branches, but all the Parties have been praising the quality of this architecture in Cancun.

Hence the deliverables are at the right place. But we still have a situation. Thus, we maybe have to look at the gear, or at the driver.

On Tuesday's opening plenary, the distinguished president of COP 17 precisely pointed out this issue, seeking what and how is to be done now and what is to be done in the future.

Twenty years on from the historical Rio momentum, we cannot keep hiding behind words. Yes, we have the technical framework in place, which is subject to continuous improvement. Thus we have the framework for now. But **we don't have the needed framework for tomorrow**; hence we cannot be fully supportive in gearing our effort for saving tomorrow today.

We all acknowledge - to the point of becoming a common place - that climate change is yet much more than an environmental issue: it's an economic, social and developmental problem. Tackling such complex issues claims high expertise, as well as strong leadership. Both the gear and the driver have to be strong, committed and attentive. I think we have in place the best engine possible. The Kyoto Protocol has proved to work, and due to the strong commitment devoted to the Protocol, so many citizens of this planet acknowledge today how strong the environmental integrity influences the outlook of our planet's fate.

Beyond its technical meanings and outlines, the Kyoto Protocol as a role model has provided outstanding issues last year: the Legally Binding Instrument, the pledges, the level of ambition for mitigation.

The European Union and its Member States, with different GDPs, are once more committed to prove strong leadership through their readiness for engaging in a second commitment period. Romania, even facing the sharp bite of the economic crisis, continues to stand by the European Union commitments in supporting the developing countries' efforts.

For us, the meaning of leadership is a mixture of steadiness and openness. It is a combination of flexibility in the ways of work, doubled by a strong backbone in the objectives and in the structure of our work. Flexible mechanisms, ambitious targets, demanding framework, all of them represent landmarks for understanding the climate commitment.

Let us remember that 20 years ago, at Rio, we witnessed a moment to be recalled as a cornerstone for the entire process and for the strong relationship between sustainable development and climate change action. We should use all this framework today and thus save tomorrow. The new reality provides a new momentum; we must fully acknowledge that there are no miracle solutions, but mutual efforts and mutual consideration, and I would dare to say: differentiated, **but common responsibilities**.

There is a proverb that best describes the non-decision effects: never put off till tomorrow what you can do today; but put it off till the day after tomorrow, for it may not be needed anymore. Well, this does not work for climate change.

I am confident that there is enough political will among the Parties: we can and will find the common ground in our negotiations. A robust outcome of our negotiations is our main objective.

Our highest priority remains to find a way forward on the path towards a future global agreement, encompassing all major economies. We can consider a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol only a part of the transition to a wider legally-binding framework.

Only global action can provide the necessary emission reductions towards meeting the 2°C objective. We are in the right place and time to decide on a global 2050 emission reduction goal and a timeframe for global peaking. Both tracks, under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol are very important as they can feed in the progress of the climatic process.

During the last years, the humankind has found out that no perpetual growth is possible on a planet with limited resources, unless we can change the meaning of growth or our way of living.

As yet, nobody loves austerity, but we can be creative in drawing up the appropriate mitigation actions through developing strong partnerships, and not only between the Parties. We must provide the private sector with tools and predictability for working with the public sector towards our common goals.

To close the circle, Romania, and the European Union consider that indeed, Durban **can** deliver, whereas **we have** the deliverables; we have experienced drivers and strong engines. And we know, but still shall prove, that there is no other way and no better road than the road – **and the roadmap** - towards a global legally binding agreement.

We should prevent the climate global framework becoming a shell as empty as very resonant. In a couple of days we have to give evidences of fledging our shell. Hopefully we'll succeed.