

**OPENING REMARKS FROM COP PRESIDENT, MANUEL PULGAR-VIDAL,
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT OF PERU**

Welcoming Event

December 1, 2014

Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Madam Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change, Christiana Figueres,
Distinguished President of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,
Rajendra K. Pachauri
Distinguished Presidents and Co-Presidents of the Subsidiary Bodies,
Distinguished delegates from Member States,
Observers,
Distinguished Mayors of the city of Lima and the district of San Borja,
Ladies and gentlemen from the Peruvian and international press,
Friends,

Let me give to all of you our warmest welcome to Lima, and the hospitality of its people. Welcome to Peru and its magical diversity. Welcome to Peru and its magical diversity. Welcome to Lima COP20/CMP10. Welcome to the action.

We have worked strongly to have this place to move our wishes, dreams & desires into real and strong solutions. We know we will work together, with all your support and the support of all. We have been working and will continue to do so to have a place where voices will be heard. We are here to build bridges.

So let me switch to my native language to make my remarks.

It is a great honor and pleasure to finally welcome you today and begin this Conference that, we are sure, will be historic for Peru, and crucial for the world.

On behalf of the Peruvian government, of President Ollanta Humala Tasso, on behalf of the Peruvian people, I want to tell you all we begin this COP hoping your time in Peru will be forever remembered as a pleasant and fruitful one. We want you to enjoy our country and the hospitality of its people. At the same time, we

want you to find in this COP to provide you with the necessary trust, comfort, and will to agree on the compromises the world requires.

We have prepared this Conference with great determination and hopefulness. We have devoted a great deal of human and economic effort into building this venue and, with the support from the Secretariat, we have organized the services you need for transport, lodging, and communication, so you can engage easily in dialogue with one another. I trust these rooms and gardens will make you feel at home and that you will feel well taken care of, so we can build together here the future of our world's climate! We have the structure and the venue. Now let us provide it with content.

We arrive to Lima preceded by several very positive signals I would like to highlight: the historic announcements on mitigation commitments from some of the world's main emitters, the great public mobilization and informal initiatives launched during the Climate Summit in New York, the auspicious initial capitalization and resource mobilization of the Green Climate Fund, the progress made on the Durban Platform, and of course, the latest report from the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change, issued on November 2, 2014 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

This report contains multiple ineludible messages: never before has there been as much scientific evidence of the social and environmental effects of climate change—at the same time severe and irreversible—. Never before has it been clearer that the window of opportunity to reduce emissions will be soon closed. Never before have the potential, aggravated scenarios that await us, based on more or less demanding trajectories to reduce global emissions, been as precise. Never before has the need to prepare a transformational adaptation process of our cities and productive sectors and enhance their resilience been clearer. Never before have been so neatly defined in front of our eyes the multiple opportunities and economic and environmental co-benefits derived from accelerated mitigation and adaptation action.

The main challenge for this Conference is receiving all these positive signals and messages; let us not throw them away. Let us take this opportunity to build trust, to build on this basis concrete agreements that increase trust among ourselves,

and trust in the process from the public opinion. The world is waiting, and the world is not expecting us to fail.

For that reason, I would like to remind you all, during this opening ceremony, of the substantive objectives we have, as the Peruvian Presidency, for this Conference; which, I am sure, we all share:

We want this to be the COP that provides a clear and solid foundation for the new global climate Agreement, through a text that incorporates basic elements that strike a balance between climate action and sustainable development.

At the same time, we would like that, for the first time, all countries without exception, agree on the information we should submit in 2015 to demonstrate our national contributions on climate change.

The substantive capitalization of the Green Climate Fund has demonstrated there is political will to support climate action. Let us acknowledge this effort, and take a substantial leap to strengthen climate finance and its structures. Along these lines, we have a vision for this COP to crystalize an articulation framework to strengthen the financial mechanism in order to scale up the mobilization of resources. We expect the High Level Ministerial Dialogue on climate finance to constitute a decisive political milestone for Ministers to converge around this vision.

We also want COP 20/CMP 10 to launch, through a decision from the Parties and other initiatives, an ambitious process to accelerate climate action prior to 2020, starting with the fulfilment of existing obligations under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol, and continuing with the exploration of new opportunities with high mitigation and adaptation potential.

We also expect, of course, that the Lima Conference is the COP where adaptation action gives a qualitative leap by broadening and strengthening the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs); the COP in which, for the first time, there is a successful start of mitigation action from developed countries; the COP in which the International Mechanism on Loss and Damage is operationalized; the COP in which we start the implementation phase of the REDD+ Mechanism, and when, in December 8, we celebrate the first “REDD+ Day”. Also, we want this COP to

produce relevant outcomes on technology transfer, capacity building, gender and climate change, and public participation in climate change, among others.

I therefore urge you to work creatively, constantly and constructively, with all our support.

None of the outcomes we expect is guaranteed. In order to achieve them, the Presidency team and I will personally follow the process closely. We will intervene calling Parties to move forward. We will act with flexibility. When the time comes, we will encourage Parties to concede, facilitate convergence and seek compromises on key issues.

In doing so, we will abide by some key central rules: full transparency, complete inclusiveness, permanent dialogue, consensus-building spirit, and strictly ensuring that this is permanently led and decided by Parties. We want you to own this process. We want to generate, multiply, ensure confidence among us.

I would also like to let you know that Peru expects a Conference that, for the first time, includes a space for high level dialogue and cooperation between Parties and non-State actors, who must be acknowledged and encouraged, and to whom we must also request concrete results. For this reason, we have decided to declare December 11 the Lima Climate Action Day. Also for this, we wish to allow, in this session and others, and I urge you to do so as a sign of participation and inclusion, to have the group that represents women, and the group that represents youth organizations, to take the floor in the middle of session, not at the end. We want to give with this a sign of participation.

This must be the COP that listens to all voices, and for that, Dear Observers, we are very delighted with your presence in this room, and also not far from here, in the space provided by Voices for the Climate. We are delighted to have the wide and enthusiastic presence of thousands of participants from Peru and abroad, representatives from youth organizations, women groups, indigenous people, non-governmental organizations, local governments, and the private sector. This means a lot to us because this is a COP to hear and to be heard. To all of you, listening to Peru at this very moment, I ask you to make this COP the COP of dialogue, innovative ideas, and commitment for action.

Before I finish, I want to let you know we have worked very hard for this COP to leave behind a historic legacy for Peru and its people that radically transform the domestic climate and environmental agenda, through a qualitative leap on regulations and policies, and in the behavior of each and every one of us.

We are also witnessing how this Conference will bring to Peru unprecedented opportunities on international cooperation, support, and projects we will develop together. And we want to generate awareness, as climate change particularly affects the poorest, those who have less.

In this opening ceremony, I want to express my gratitude to the President of the Republic of Peru, Ollanta Humala Tasso, for his vision and his will to make this COP a reality. To my colleagues, Peruvian Ministers from other sectors, for their contributions to the organization and content of this Conference. To distinguished Congressmen, and the Mayors of Lima, San Borja and Surco, thank you very much for hosting this enormous event, the largest one to ever take place in the city.

To you, Christiana, and to your team in Bonn, thank you for engaging with us in such a constructive manner in the organization of this event.

To my good friend Minister Marcin Korolec, and his team in Poland, thank you for assuming this very complex task with remarkable leadership all throughout the year. Poland demonstrated the fruits of the effort that led to proactive outcomes and decisions as in the Warsaw COP.

I also want to offer in advance our help and support to the Government of France. We know France will play a key role as the host of the upcoming and crucial COP 21 in Paris in 2015.

With these words, I declare open the 20th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the 10th Meeting of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol.

In doing so, I want to echo the call made by President Humala in New York in September 1: the time has come to build the greatest alliance in history for climate and development.

Now let's get to work! Welcome to Lima. Welcome to Peru. Welcome to the action.

Thank you.