

**Statement by Ms. Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of the
Environment of Finland**

**at the 20th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework
Convention on Climate Change and CMP10 of the Kyoto
Protocol**

9 December 2014, Lima, Peru

Buenas Tardes,

**Distinguished Mr. President, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and
Gentlemen**

I would like to start by thanking the Peruvian people for their hospitality in the beautiful city of Lima and the generous facilities dedicated for this particular event.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The IPCC showed in its fifth assessment report that the Arctic region is especially vulnerable to the effects of climate change. My country has a quarter of its area extending north of the Arctic Circle and the Arctic is thereby of utmost importance to us. But today, I want to draw your attention to the Arctic region, since it is of crucial importance to every single Party in this room. The impacts of climate change in the Arctic will amplify global warming and the related risks. This results from loss of ice cover, impacts of black

carbon and thawing of the permafrost in the Arctic. The degree of global sea level rise will largely depend on the extent these changes can be prevented.

Mr President

Protection of the Arctic region and minimization of global sea level rise calls for agreeing on an ambitious 2015 agreement in Paris. Ultimately, vast coastal areas and numerous human lives are at stake.

We all have a clear view by now on what is needed from Lima in order to succeed in Paris. First, we need a decision that will guide us next year, not least in the preparations of our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. Secondly, we need a good basis for the finalization of the negotiating text for the Paris conference.

To succeed in Paris, it is crucial that the first and following drafts of the negotiating text identify key political choices and remain manageable in terms of size.

Active participation of women will be important in efficient implementation of climate policies. We are very pleased that the Lima work programme on gender was agreed last week. We would

like to see gender equality as a guiding principle in the 2015 agreement.

Mr President

Let me now turn to how my country is contributing to global efforts. Finland's domestic long-term goal is to become carbon-neutral.

In June, the Government submitted for parliamentary approval Finland's Climate Change Act. It aims at putting into law a long-term mitigation target of at least 80% emissions reduction by 2050. The act covers both mitigation and adaptation. It is also intended to serve as a tool for the Government and Parliament to reach the emissions reduction targets in the most cost-efficient and systematic way possible.

In October, a roadmap on climate and energy policy until 2050 was released by a Parliamentary Committee covering all major political Parties. This roadmap has a particularly broad support from the Finnish society and confirms that Finland is committed to the EU's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% of the 1990 level by 2050.

Finland is one of the first countries to have drawn up a national strategy for adaptation to climate change in 2005. This strategy has been recently updated and spans now till 2022.

We believe that developing cleantech businesses is the solution to combine ambitious climate and economic targets in the future. In 2014, Finland launched its national strategies for cleantech business and bioeconomy, and the goal is to double our cleantech business until 2020. We need wide global utilization of cleantech solutions to reach the climate targets, and Finland has plenty to offer to domestic and international markets. Cleantech business and bioeconomy are the key areas of green growth in the future.

Finland stands ready to help developing countries to achieve the same. Finland aims at contributing 80 million euros, the third largest pledge per capita and per GDP, to the Green Climate Fund during 2015-18. Finland has continuously increased its support for the GEF, contributing 65 million euros to the 6th replenishment, and has been a regular contributor to the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund.

Mr President,

I am convinced that by the end of this week we will reach a positive outcome. In the course of our work we need to keep in mind that

our decisions can have long term consequences. I am a mother myself so this is also of a personal concern to me. It is our responsibility to guarantee that the world prevails to our children as beautiful as it is today.

Gracias.