

COP 20/CMP 10, Lima, Peru - High-Level Segment

Statement by Iceland

President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Iceland supports the momentum we feel here in Lima towards reaching a new global climate agreement next year. The agreement should have mitigation action at its core, and provide a framework for all countries towards a greener way to develop their economies and societies.

Increased carbon emissions affect the atmosphere and land ecosystems. The effect on the oceans will also be profound. Ocean acidification is a growing threat, not least for countries that depend on fisheries and a healthy marine ecosystem. Like our our host country, Iceland has an economy reliant on rich fisheries. For the health of the oceans, as well as the planet, we need to chart a low-carbon future.

Two sectors matter most in that respect. Firstly, in energy, we need to move from fossil fuels towards renewable sources. With almost 100% of stationary energy production in Iceland coming from renewables, Iceland aims to focus on mobile sources, mainly transport and fisheries. Success has been made in reducing emissions from these sectors in recent years, including through a carbon tax and other economic instruments. We want to do better, and the long term goal will be to phase out fossil fuel use in transport and fisheries. Iceland will continue its efforts to support capacity building and development of renewables globally, particularly in geothermal.

Secondly, land use is a crucial sector in climate change mitigation, as well as adaptation. Globally, we should look at synergies between the UNFCCC and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and opportunities for land rehabilitation actions. At home, Iceland is committed to increase its efforts on carbon removal from the atmosphere by afforestation and revegetation. Iceland is also developing a programme on wetland conservation and reclamation, in cooperation with stakeholders, which would benefit biodiversity and the climate.

Gender equality is an important matter, which will help us succeed in climate mitigation and adaptation, and is a vital element of the new agreement. The two-year work program to promote gender balance is an important step which we welcome, but clearly we have opportunities to do still better.

Iceland will contribute to the Green Climate Fund.

Iceland is taking part in a joint commitment with the EU and its Member States for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, as Iceland takes part in a European-wide market for carbon credits. Iceland is exploring ways to chart a low-carbon road beyond 2020 as part of a global agreement - by action at home, participation in regional carbon markets and international cooperation.

Thank you,