

Statement at the COP/CMP in Lima
delivered by H.E Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional
Development Mr Kaspars Gerhards

Good afternoon Mr President! Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, let me thank the Peruvian presidency for hosting this fundamentally important Climate Change Conference. Thank you for showing a way forward! Thank you for inspiring!

If we want to achieve our common goal, we need to speed up and we need to focus. We need to concentrate on what is really important! We need to ensure climate change mitigation meanwhile not forgetting about adaptation. UN Climate Summit showed that there is a wide support for stepping up and enlarging ambitions. Let's build on this positive momentum and communicate our intended nationally determined contributions by the first quarter of 2015!

In October, twenty eight Member States of the European Union reached a historical agreement – we agreed on a legally binding, economy-wide reduction target of at least 40 % reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990. For some this might seem nothing special, but for us that created an unprecedentedly difficult internal discussions. Similarly as many countries here in Lima, Latvia was very concerned about its possible commitments and their impact upon economic growth. However, we did agree to this target. Why? Because we believe that everyone can participate! Everyone can find measures that suits and are both useful and beneficial.

We started with a Green Investment Scheme. At the time of deep economic recession projects co-funded by the Green Investment Scheme not only ensured

greenhouse gas emissions reductions but also advanced our economic recovery and growth. Now we are developing economy-wide policies. We are thinking both at national and regional level. Especially, with regard to adaptation measures as they have to be tailored to local circumstances.

Mr. President, I am pleased to inform you that today Latvia's government decided on a pledge to the Green Climate Fund. I am confident that the Green Climate Fund shall ensure smart investments and deliver principal transformations. Needs are always greater than financial capabilities. It is, therefore, essentially important to combine investments with sustainable government policies.

In order to meet the challenge of climate change and by the end of 2015 agree on a new agreement, I strongly believe that Lima needs to lay ground for it. Moreover, for the agreement to be feasible, it has to be legally binding, durable and applicable to all Parties.

Mr President, Latvia is ready to take an active role in enhancing cooperation and mutual understanding among countries for successful work in the run-up to Paris. I hope others will do so as well.

Thank you and good luck to all of us!