

**Plenary Statement by the Netherlands Climate Ambassador,  
Mr. Michel Rentenaar, at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP-  
20), Lima, Peru, 11 December 2014**

Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change is a big threat and a great challenge but it is also a golden opportunity to shape our future. And it is ours for the taking.

By ours I mean: the global community. Because global action is the only way to tackle climate change successfully.

We have to build a global economy that leaves the world **better** than we found it instead of **worse**.

And yes, we must limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and adapt to climate change as well.

- My country, The Netherlands, is proud of the goal of the European Union to reduce emissions by at least 40% by the year 2030.
- The Netherlands is aiming for fully sustainable energy supplies by 2050 and a climate-neutral world by the end of the 21st century.
- That is why we have made a substantial contribution to the Green Climate Fund, to help developing countries move towards resilient, sustainable development.

In our centuries' old tradition of working together in combatting the threat of water, Dutch companies, cities, governments and other stakeholders have joined forces in the Dutch Climate Coalition. We want to work together towards a climate-neutral society and show that green growth can successfully be the standard for economic prosperity.

And we can do this with broad international coalitions as well.

Some of these coalitions presented themselves and their actions at the Climate Summit in New York.

They give us hope that we wil successfully create a new global climate agreement.

An agreement to which cooperation is essential.

Cooperation between nations, cities and businesses.

Between resilient and vulnerable countries.

Between rich and poor, between generations, while recognizing the important role of women in developing countries.

Because **we are all part of the solution!**

Investing in climate is investing in **our future.**

And more and more parties see that it also just makes economic sense to take action now, to create opportunities for inclusive green growth and sustainable development for all of us. If we really agree on this, then a new agreement should be flexible, because one size does not fit all, but not open-ended. Countries should contribute according to capacity, but we will also call each other to account.

Mr President, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

People from all over the world are expecting us to seize this golden opportunity. They expect leadership.

Our generation can make the difference in tackling climate change. So let's do it. Let's pave the way to Paris. Let's act now and let's act together!

Thank you.

