22th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC and the 12th session of the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12)

(Marrakech, Morocco, 7-18 November 2016)

Statement of the Minister of Environment of Lithuania

Mr. President, Excellences, Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start with the greetings for entering into force the historical Paris Agreement and wish all of us success to implement ours commitments. Lithuania finalizes ratification process of the Paris Agreement and puts efforts for it's implementation.

Today, with appreciation for the hospitality of Moroccans, I would like to express my full support to COP22 President and his team in their initiatives and readiness to approve implementing decisions of the Paris Agreement.

In order to achieve goals of the Paris Agreement, the most important priority for all countries is successful implementation of ambitious and legally binding greenhouse gas emissions reduction commitments.

We strongly believe, that only acting together we can prevent climate change. Therefore, active participation of all countries, especially the biggest economies, is of the utmost importance.

Lithuania, together with other members of the European Union, has taken a commitment to reduce GHG emissions at least 40 percent until 2030. We are going to fulfill it by implementing the EU climate and energy policy.

Lithuanian experience proves that there is no contradiction between economic growth and environment protection. Lithuania has three million inhabitants and is responsible for insignificant part (*less than 0.04 percent*) of global annual greenhouse gas emissions. Nevertheless, our emission levels in the last 25 years fell by 58 percent, while our GDP increased by 30 per cent during this period demonstrating that economy growth is decoupled from increase of emissions.

Lithuania's climate change policy is enshrined in the National Low Carbon Development and Adaptation Strategy and its Implementation Action Plan. Climate targets and objectives are accordingly mainstreamed into sectorial development programs. Lithuania's gradual emission reductions targets are being implemented in different economy sectors, such as energy, industry, transport, agriculture setting long term pathways for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

We are implementing ambitious modernization programs for multi-apartment and public buildings by improving energy efficiency. Renewable energy is used more widely. In 2014 Lithuania used 23.6 percent of renewables in final energy consumption

Lithuania on voluntary basis is increasing climate finance to developing countries and strives, that provided support is result-oriented.

We believe that Marrakech conference will make a substantial progress in all actions of the Paris work program and provide a solid basis to move to a low emissions climate resilient global economy.

In order to guarantee that Paris Agreement commitments are fully respected robust accountability and transparency guidelines under Paris Agreement shall be developed. We need to prepare for the 2018 facilitative dialogue and global stocktake process to review our collective efforts towards long-term mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation goals.

Mr Chair, dear colleagues, the only way to guarantee our safe future is efficient global actions implementing Paris Agreement.

Thank you for your attention!