

STATEMENT  
by H.E. Mr. Richard Brabec  
Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic

**at the 21<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and at the 11<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, Paris, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished delegates,

Firstly, let me express my utmost gratitude to the Government and People of France and in particular to His Excellency President of the Conference of the Parties Mr. Laurent Fabius, for preparing and hosting such an important international event. We highly appreciate that despite the recent brutal terrorist attacks France did not lose the courage to hold this significant conference. Also due to this reason we all must strive for reaching a successful outcome of these climate negotiations.

Let me also fully associate with the Statements presented by the EU and its Member States. By all means climate change is one of the most serious global threats the world is facing. Throughout this year, we have witnessed extreme weather events in many forms all around the world. There is no doubt that climate change has a fundamental impact not only on the environment but also on our economic prosperity, an effective poverty eradication as well as a challenge for the national security.

To tackle climate change effectively we need to act jointly and all Parties must contribute by their fair share in securing our future and be part of the new agreement. Here, in Paris, we need to reach a legally binding agreement which will ensure that the increase in average global temperature will be limited to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. It is important as well that the new agreement must enable us to increase the ambition over time. The new agreement must be well balanced and therefore necessary attention needs to be paid to other substantial components of the new climate regime. Mitigation should be closely linked to adaptation measures to limit adverse effects of climate change. Proper financial and technological support together with capacity building will be significant to ensure effective implementation of the new agreement.

In adopting an effective, durable and fair agreement here in Paris we will express our responsibility towards current and future generations. The Czech Republic is well on the track to fulfil the commitments under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. Our greenhouse gas emission level in 2013 was below 34 per cent compared to the 1990 levels. Jointly with the EU and its Member States, we have submitted the Intended National Determined Contribution

(INDC) and made an ambitious commitment to further reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990.

To meet our current and future commitments and contributions, we will continue to implement and develop ambitious and effective climate policies on national level. Nowadays, we are finalizing a new Climate Protection Policy in the Czech Republic, which will help us with transformation to a low carbon economy by 2050. It will focus on mitigation measures with the highest potential in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and carbon intensity in different sectors (e.g. energy, industry, transport, waste, agriculture and forestry). In addition to this the Czech Republic has been investing significant financial resources in energy efficiency and green heating in various sectors including households and industry. The total budget for these measures will reach more than 2 bill. Euros by 2020.

Like other countries the Czech Republic has experienced many floods and long-lasting droughts causing severe and irreversible damage. Therefore, we have prepared a comprehensive National Adaptation Strategy, which was adopted just a few weeks ago. This strategy reflects scientific findings, informs about possible negative impacts and proposes adaptation measures in many affected

areas (e.g. water management, forestry, agriculture, urban environment, health, crisis management, etc.).

We are aware of the fact that the poorest and most vulnerable developing countries are dependent on support to address their domestic climate challenges. In this respect we consider the Green Climate Fund as an important instrument for delivering necessary financial support. The Czech Republic has pledged 5,3 mil. USD to the Green Climate Fund and contributed another 2 mil. USD to the Germans Climate Finance Readiness Programme. I would like to use this opportunity and assure you that the Czech Republic will continue to provide necessary support to developing countries in order to assist them in their adaptation and mitigation needs and efforts.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In recent years all the Parties have been actively engaging in negotiations of the new agreement. We know that these negotiations are quite complex and very difficult. However, we should not waste the enormous efforts we have invested so far. Let us transform our ambitious goals and intentions into a real and

workable legally binding Paris outcome that will contribute to a safer life on this planet.

Thank you for your attention.