

National statement by Germany

Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety,
Peter Altmaier

- check against delivery! -

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

In a few days' time, we will be marking the 65th anniversary of one of the milestones in human history - the adoption of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948.

This Declaration was a milestone because it was the first time ever that a codex setting out universal human rights was adopted at international level.

Humankind had learnt from the devastating experiences of two world wars.

In 2015, once again in Paris, the United Nations must succeed in adopting a climate agreement that is binding for all states.

Securing this agreement is the most important duty of humanitarian solidarity in the 21st century.

Climate change means the devastation of our native heritage.

Climate change is ruining the hopes of prosperity and development for millions if not billions of people. The devastating typhoon Haiyan that hit the Philippines is the latest staggering example. I would like to express my sincere solidarity with the Philippine nation.

We have a responsibility to act.

Every country,
every individual,
right now!

Because we know that climate change is human-made.

We must do everything in our power to ensure that a historic agreement covering all states is adopted in Paris in 2015.

We must make substantial and reliable financial commitments.

We must work more closely together, learn from each other and also forge new alliances.

To promote that, in summer this year I launched a Renewables Club, made up of widely different countries which want to lead the way in the expansion of renewable energy and support each other along the road.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Durban we set the course for a comprehensive climate agreement. Here in Warsaw, we are mapping the path we must take to reach it.

The agreement will only be effective if we realise three goals:

1. A legally binding agreement for *all* states. Because Parties will only take on commitments if they know that other states are doing the same according to their respective capabilities.
2. Long-term strategies: We can no longer think in years, we must think in decades. This applies to all areas, especially financing.
3. Verifiability: National efforts of all states must be verifiable according to scientific criteria. We have not yet achieved this goal. We must therefore hold the vital discussion on who will contribute how much to climate action. And we must review whether the targets are sufficient to stay below the 2 degree limit.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

You have my assurances that the new German government will stand by its climate targets:

Minus 40 percent greenhouse gas emissions by 2020,
minus 55 percent by 2030 and minus 80 to 95 percent by 2050.

We have begun to consistently transform our energy system into one based on renewable energies and greater energy efficiency.

In just a few years we have increased the renewables' share in energy supply to nearly 25 percent.

We will continue resolutely down this path with our Energiewende.

Germany is among the world's largest contributors of climate finance. This year alone, we are going to contribute a total of 1.8 billion euros. And we will continue to stand by our financial commitment in future. We are preparing for contributing to the Green Climate Fund significantly.

In my view, adaptation needs our particular attention. That's why we will cash in this year at least 30 Million € into the Adaptation Fund.

We are active at European level as well: We will advocate an emissions reduction of at least 40 percent by 2030 within the European Union, and work hard for an effective European emissions trading scheme. The agreement on the backloading of 900 million allowances was an important step signalling that we take climate action very seriously.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 1948, by adopting the Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations showed that we can learn from the past.

Today, we must show that we can learn from the future.

That we no longer have to take our lesson from disasters, but have learnt to avoid them.

Let us grasp this opportunity!

Let us learn from the future!