

**Address by Mr. Phil Hogan, T.D.,
Minister for the Environment, Community and Local
Government, Ireland**

at

COP 19, Warsaw, 20th November 2013

Thank you Mr. President.

As a member of the European Union, Ireland associates itself with the statements made by Commissioner Connie Hedegaard and the Lithuanian Presidency on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The recent Working Group One report from the IPCC serves as a timely reminder of the threat we all face from climate change, and of our collective responsibility to mobilise a comprehensive, global response. I want to assure you, Mr. President, that we have come here, to the beautiful city of Warsaw, focussed and committed to supporting your efforts to take a significant step towards agreement on a new climate treaty at COP 21 in Paris in two years' time.

Our starting point must be clear and concrete progress on pre-2020 mitigation ambition, to ensure that we give ourselves the best possible chance of creating the post-2020 world we all want – a world that is safe and sustainable for all people and for future generations.

Here in Warsaw, we must map out a clear and convincing path to COP 21. That path must ensure that we meet the goal and milestones that we ourselves have set; we must deliver on what we all agreed to at COP 17 in Durban and COP 18 in Doha.

Mr. President, a lot of work to enhance implementation of the Convention has already been achieved with, for example, the strengthening of the institutional arrangements for adaptation and means of implementation. That work must continue. We can make tangible progress here on adaptation, climate finance, transparency of action, market mechanisms, and institutional arrangements on Loss and Damage.

On an issue of particular importance for Ireland, we had hoped to see progress here in Warsaw on a work programme for agriculture. Whether addressed from a mitigation or adaptation perspective, it is a critically important issue for all Parties. As a leading agriculture economy, Ireland's priorities and measures for the land sector, including forests, are to pursue development over the long-term that is sustainable on both economic and environmental grounds.

To help achieve this, we need a framework for the land sector that includes agriculture and forests in a way that recognises the impact of actions in the sector, and consequent emissions and removals. The framework should enable mitigation and adaptation in the land sector to be included in the 2015 Agreement. Support for food production and adaptation in the post-2020 framework would help to ensure that the land sector can contribute to the overall objective of the Convention, while protecting rural livelihoods and rural development.

Turning to climate finance, Mr. President, Ireland is delivering. In spite of very challenging economic circumstances, we have delivered on our voluntary fast-start finance commitment. Ireland's Climate funding is completely made up of grants and is focused on the poorest communities of the Least Developed Countries. It is clear to me that those most affected, struggle each day to adapt to the affects of Climate Change on agriculture, livelihoods and family wellbeing and we must redouble our efforts to support them. The Government of Ireland has recently approved an additional €1.4 million to strengthen capacity in Least Developed Countries and to support the Least Developed Countries Fund, as well as supporting climate-resilient development in countries such as Uganda, Mozambique, Ethiopia Lesotho and Zambia.

We want to see progress on climate finance here in Warsaw and public finance as an essential part of the solution. But so too is private finance, which we must mobilise, along with funding from innovative sources.

Mr. President, our challenge is great and our work is urgent. As I said at the outset, we are focussed on the need for progress, and we are committed to supporting you in shaping and guiding a significant step forward.

Thank you