

**Mr. Chairman, Ministers, Excellences, NGO representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Latest scientific reports confirm what we had known already long ago – our climate is changing. Furthermore, we are witnessing climate change – almost every day we hear news from across the world about climate change related disasters. Yet, we are being warned that the pace and intensity of these processes will continue to increase.

Climate change is the biggest challenge that humanity has ever faced! And although we had known we have to tackle it already some time ago, we are still far from adequate actions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In recent years, Latvia's economy and its people went through one of the hardest periods since the country's proclamation 95 years ago. In 2008, after years of booming economic success, the Latvian economy took one of the world's sharpest dives, with its GDP plummeting by over 20%. A very gloomy picture, indeed. However, Latvia was committed and is committed to contribute towards the mitigation of climate change! We understand that everybody is to participate and we are ready to do our share!

In Latvia there are only around two million people but since 2009 we have implemented more than 2000 projects aimed at greenhouse gas emission reduction. Measures financed through our Green Investment Scheme include increase of energy efficiency, technology conversion from fossil to renewable energy sources, development of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as raising of public awareness with regard to the importance and possibilities of greenhouse gas emission reduction. We have focused on win-win solutions and therefore despite of the hard economic situation we have managed to positively contribute towards climate change mitigation. Moreover, these activities have even advanced our economic recovery and Latvia is now back on track, being among the top performers in the European Union. By using public funding, we have mobilised domestic private investments towards climate action and

increased public awareness. I strongly believe that this is the way forward – smart synergies of public funding and market-based mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A lot has been said here in this room today, yesterday and during the entire COP. Yet, currently the progress we see is not enough.

I urge all of us to be more engaged, more caring! I believe and aim to prove that we can all do better than we have done so far. Millions of people across the world look at us and are hoping for us to show the way! We must live up to the expectations of the global community!

The Warsaw Conference must deliver an agreement on the process to capture ambitious mitigation commitments from all Parties in the 2015 agreement. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, yesterday reminded us a saying that three things are good things. This is a third COP in Poland and therefore it must be a good one!

According to scientists, there is no time to postpone a solution any longer! So? Let's act here and now!

Thank you!