



COP 19 UNFCCC, Warsaw

Statement by Federal Councillor Doris Leuthard

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends,

Once again, we are coming together to search for solutions to address the challenge of climate change. Once again, the world is watching us. And once again, the public perception risks being that we meet, but don't act; that we talk, but don't "walk".

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, this must not be! We can and have to make sure that the climate negotiations make a difference - in the real world. Our work must therefore lead:

- to substantial **emissions reductions** by all main emitters,
- to concrete measures that help each of us to **adapt**, and
- to effective **support** for those who need it.

The facts are clear

You all know the facts: The most recent dramatic example of the changes in the climate system can be seen in the Philippines and the devastation left by typhoon Haiyan. Moreover, the human influence on these changes in the climate system is clear and proven by the IPCC Report.

The impacts are significant

Switzerland, situated in the Alpine system, has already experienced warming above the global average. As things stand, the impact of warming in my country is expected to become more severe in the

coming years. The stability of the mountains will diminish due to higher temperatures and heavier and more concentrated rainfalls. The Alpine glaciers are now melting at a faster rate than they were a few decades ago.

The solutions are known

Limiting warming to less than 2 degrees will require substantial and sustained global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. And this reduction in emissions can only be achieved if all countries, namely all main emitters, act. Climate change does not stop at national borders. Cross-border problems therefore require global solutions. National efforts are good, but internationally coordinated and binding measures are better.

Not only is it technically and economically feasible to reduce emissions, we also all know that the costs of inaction far exceed the benefits of a green economy based on lower emissions.

We have to make sure that financing – both public and private – heads in the right direction:

- ➔ we have to invest in green technology, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and not in carbon! Today, 17% of CO₂ emissions are caused by forest fires. This is an area in which we can achieve quick results. That is also the case in terms of transport.
- In the past, we industrialised countries have cut down forests, over fertilised our lakes and waterways, polluted the air – all with dramatic consequences. We have learnt from that. That is why I say to developing and threshold countries, I understand your efforts to achieve progress and prosperity. But this growth needs to have a solid foundation and must not be at the detriment of the environment and human health.
- We industrialised countries therefore have a duty to help other countries to develop in the shape of transferring know-how

and technology. It is not about industrialised countries selling this technology as a new form of business. It is simply the case that this know-how and technology achieve good results and serve our goal of establishing a low carbon society. That's something that is in all our interests. Ultimately the whole world benefits from the solidarity between industrialised and developing countries.

The framework needed for these solutions

Two years ago in Durban we agreed to develop by 2015 a legally-binding agreement/treaty applicable to all countries. In order to be effective, such an agreement will have to ensure ambitious, unconditional, quantifiable and comparable action by all countries. It would have to be based on common rules and be supported by a common measuring, reporting, verification and compliance mechanism. This meeting here in Warsaw must be an important step in that direction. Therefore, here at COP 19, we have to:

- determine core modalities of the post-2020 commitments such as the length of the commitment period, agree that all commitments will be unconditional, and that all commitments must be clear, quantifiable in *tonnes of CO2 equivalent* and comparable
- agree on the areas where common rules for national commitments are needed and on the process of how these commitments will be formalised;
- and begin work on scaling up the amount and effectiveness of climate finance, and on support and guidance for adaptation.

Switzerland is ready to do its part:

Finally, let me reassure you that Switzerland is ready to do its fair share:

- Switzerland has agreed to a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, and my government will submit the respective amendments to parliament in January 2014.
- Switzerland has put in place new CO2 legislation to reduce domestic CO2 emissions.
- Switzerland is also ready to engage in emission reduction measures additional to its 2020 target under the Kyoto Protocol, namely within the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Friends of Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform, or by including civil aviation in the emission trading scheme.
- And, Switzerland will continue to work with and support developing parties in mitigating the effects of and adapting to climate change. To underline our strong commitment, Switzerland will contribute 10 million dollars this year to the Adaptation Fund.

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Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends: For many companies low cost fossil energy is important. But the price will rise, if we think only in terms of short term and economic criteria. Here in Warsaw we can make a difference to ensure that negotiations of the future climate regime will be successful.

Thank you!