



**Latin American and Caribbean Carbon Forum
Bogota, 3 September 2014**

**Video Statement by
Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Honorable Ministers,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, allow me to thank the host and organizers of this year's Latin American and Caribbean Carbon Forum.

I am sorry that I cannot be with you in person, but my schedule has taken me to Apia, Samoa in the Pacific to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

Both your Forum and the SIDS conference come just weeks before UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon hosts a major Climate Summit and just months before Latin America becomes the epicentre of the international climate negotiations in Lima, Peru.

Seismic shifts are undoubtedly needed from all walks of life and sectors of society to put in place the policies and the pathways to bend the emissions curve down, trigger a deep decarbonization of the global economy and achieve climate neutrality in the second half of the century.

This is the reality that speaks to us from the science if the world is to meet the internationally agreed goal of staying under 2 degrees Celsius temperature rise.

There are really positive signs emerging from all corners of the Earth. There is a wind of ambition blowing towards these two key events in 2014 en route to governments inking a new, universal climate agreement in Paris in 2015.

Almost daily one reads of yet another wind farm or significant solar project being installed; another country adopting climate legislation; a city pledging ambitious targets;

corporations greening supply chains and new kinds of low or zero carbon financial indexes or mechanisms being launched.

A great deal of analysis is also emerging from a wide array of finance-related institutions on how markets are evolving as the world works towards that new Paris agreement—not least in respect to issues such as stranded assets in coal and oil and what this may mean for investors like pension fund managers.

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol is, as we all know, one of the pioneering market mechanisms that has unleashed a great deal of climate action in its own right.

In the past few years, this market has hit a lull as result of for example the falling carbon price.

Let me applaud the way the CDM and its Executive Board have taken this opportunity to implement a raft of reforms and position the CDM for a rising carbon price and greater carbon market activity in advance of Paris 2015.

Today, I would like to tell you two important things:

1. Offsetting is a reality that will be with us for many years to come as economies address climate change and find their way to the deep decarbonization of the global economy. Yes we must make real emissions reductions, but there will for some time be some emissions that cannot be addressed so easily.
2. The emissions market we have built and implemented in the last decade as a mechanism to price GHG emissions is an experience we should take advantage of to keep going with carbon pricing efforts. We also need to make the most of knowledge and capacities built on emissions reduction monitoring.

Maybe the most important thing to do is facilitate private sector participation in mitigation efforts. Let's be clear: without the private sector, we won't achieve our reduction objectives.

Colleagues, at this crucial moment for mitigation, I would ask you to articulate with your respective governments to be sure private sector is ready to contribute with accountable and measurable solutions. What we need most is bold policies and interesting prices to encourage private sector participation.

Take advantage of your extensive experience and knowledge and help governments to go faster and further. Use your leadership to show that an economic revolution is possible. Demonstrate how efficient and practical market instruments can make a low carbon future possible.

It is time to build on your achievements of the past decade and be ready to take this story to its next level of ambition so that the outcomes of Paris 2015 have markets ready and willing to play their part in the tasks at hand.

Thank you.

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