



**Green Growth Summit III
Brussels, 15 October 2014**

**Statement by
Richard Kinley, Deputy Executive Secretary
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Honourable Ministers,
Members of Parliament,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking the Green Growth Group Initiative and Corporate Leaders Group for inviting the UNFCCC to be part of Green Growth Summit III.

I would also like to thank Ed Davey for his opening remarks and his leadership in advancing the dialogue on green growth and on the importance of an ambitious 2015 agreement to address climate change.

Climate change is a complex challenge and I would acknowledge that previous levels of uncertainty made climate leadership risky, particularly action with economic consequence. That the EU was in the forefront is to its credit.

But as climate change impacts materialize and the costs of inaction and benefits of action become clearer, the risk equation has changed fundamentally.

The prevalent risks are now physical and costly – risks of impacts due to inaction. And risks to progress as others seize opportunities and build new economies.

Simply put, there is a real risk of being left behind.

Green growth is emerging as the way to get ahead. Green growth is the key that unlocks untold economic potential and stabilizes the climate, thereby opening more opportunity.

The past month has shed light on how the political and economic context are shifting in a profound way.

The scientific facts are crystal clear and this has settled firmly in the public consciousness.

September's New York Climate Week kicked off with a People's Climate March, with more than 300,000 people marching to support climate action and many joining worldwide.

Science and public conscience show we must act on climate.

Climate Week also showcased business strategy to avoid costly risks of inaction. 10 multinationals committed to 100% renewable energy, more than 1,000 businesses supported pricing carbon and investor groups committed to decarbonizing their assets.

The changing economics show we can act on climate.

Then at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit, governments announced action in key areas with 100 Heads of State and Government stepping up to commit politically to meeting the climate challenge.

This proves that we will act on climate.

We must, we can and we will act, and in doing so we will transform the global growth trajectory. But questions remain. Will we act with urgency and at scale? Will we change the narrative and arrive at a climate-neutral future?

To answer those questions with a resounding yes, we need green growth leadership. Europe is proving green growth is an environmentally sound model that meets economic goals of sustained growth, decent jobs and equitable development.

These goals are only achievable in the long term with a stable, climate neutral environment where emissions and our planet's ability to absorb those emissions are in balance.

Just look at the mounting evidence:

- Strong EU economies are demonstrating that clean, efficient and innovative energy is preferable and profitable;
- Much international finance, technology and capacity building support to developing countries originates here; and
- Europe has always strongly supported the international climate change process, with a new agreement set to be inked in the EU next year.

Accelerating those trends creates a better business model with sustainable, green growth at its core.

Policies stimulate green growth and the next 15 months are key.

In the climate talks, a draft new, universal climate change agreement will be put on the table in Lima this year. Contributions to the agreement will be announced in early 2015. And the new agreement will be adopted in Paris in December of 2015.

Policy now prepares the ground for a robust agreement.

Efficiency standards and renewable energy targets are making major profitable inroads. Regional and city climate policy is leading the way.

A host of institutions are coming online or growing stronger:

- Green Climate Fund, with capitalization contributions from the EU among the first;
- Climate Technology Centre and Network in Copenhagen; and
- Clean Development Mechanism, which helps bring markets online and grows demand.

Development banks increasingly point funds towards low carbon and business has many resources to go green.

This is the policy window for a robust 2015 agreement.

Policy that spurs investment coupled with falling costs of clean technology and growing market opportunities opens the door for a vibrant, long-term economy.

A new, universal climate change agreement is part of the policy suite that changes the growth narrative towards low-carbon, green growth.

For the new agreement to be an effective agent of change, it must do 5 things:

- It must be a collaboration platform that engages all countries in meaningful action on climate change;
- It must outline initial mitigation and a review cycle that ramps up mitigation over time;
- It must strengthen adaptation strategies, plans and policies;
- It must build capacity with finance and technology that enables truly global response; and
- It must recognize a long-term goal of climate neutral development and mobilize social and economic forces towards achieving that goal.

The new agreement must send a signal of transformational change and ensure industries, investors, regions and cities can scale up actions with confidence in a dynamic economic landscape.

The new agreement can and must accelerate the trend towards low-carbon, green growth, but it will not happen without policy that sets ambitious targets and incentivizes the innovation and investment that meet those targets.

Those who seize this opportunity, the early adopters of green growth, will lead in the coming green economy.

The EU is already seeing significant gains from ambitious targets in member states and low-carbon development worldwide.

Big-name business here is responding to climate risk and opportunity of action. From IKEA, to Tesco, to Unilever and Swiss RE, industry is on board.

Growing renewable energy and green bond markets and diversification from potentially stranded assets shows investors are on board.

And almost 60 leading EU businesses this month urged leaders – you – to put a robust 2030 energy and climate policy framework in place and deliver a strong, effective global climate change agreement.

Honourable ministers and policymakers, today I ask to you to build on your strong foundation in this historic moment.

Use all the tools in the box and make the coming climate change agreement durable and effective by setting bold targets now.

Incentivize low carbon now and point growth towards an innovative, clean development model.

Arrive at green growth, deep de-carbonization of the economy and climate neutrality in the second half of the century.

Help other ministers understand that a strong climate change agreement is a strong economic, health, transportation, national security and green growth agreement.

We must, we can and we will act on climate change.

Policy that greens growth is the best pathway to meeting the interlinked environmental and economic goals. Bold policy now changes the narrative for good.

What is needed in Paris is not a 5-year plan, but an agreement robust and focused enough to last 20 or 30 years and deliver true sustainability this century.

This is your leadership opportunity to safeguard stable growth in Europe and the world for many generations to come.

I ask you to seize this great opportunity while you can.

Thank you.

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