

Ambassador for Malta Dr. Simone Borg – High Level Segment Speech

I would like to start by thanking His Excellency Abdullah Bin Hamad Al-Attiyah for Presiding over this 18th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. I would also like to thank the State of Qatar and its people for their warm welcome, for the extraordinary organisation that has gone into preparations for this Conference and for the strong commitment towards addressing climate change.

Excellency, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentleman.

Malta strongly affirms that international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remain a core process in combating global climate change. It is precisely for this reason that my country had presented the 1988 resolution in the United Nations General Assembly on the “Conservation of Climate as part of the Common Heritage of Mankind” that resulted in the adoption of this Convention in 1992. This affirmation is even stronger here and now as we have come to Doha with a clear and specific mandate from Durban. This mandate requires us to deliver on **ALL** elements of the Durban package in a balanced manner. It is only in this manner that we would enable the pursuit of the objective agreed to in Copenhagen, namely remaining below an average global temperature increase of 2°C compared to

pre-industrial levels. The latest World Bank Report reminds the international community that this goal is urgent now, more than ever.

Durban marked a significant turning point and a breakthrough in international climate change negotiations, in Doha we do not afford to miss the opportunity to implement that we have painstakingly achieved in Durban.

We stand firmly by the European Union as it requests concrete progress on both work streams under the ADP. Firstly we urge parties to agree on a work plan for negotiating the new agreement by 2015 as mandated by the Durban Decision. We recognise that time is not in our favour and therefore we should not to lose focus of this objective. Moreover, progress on action to increase ambition pre 2020 under the Durban Platform should also be ensued concretely. We recognise that the ADP offers a unique opportunity for parties to increase mitigation ambition pre 2020 and hence to start closing the gap. We believe in the necessity for the adoption of a Second Commitment Period under the Kyoto Protocol in Doha and which is to come into force on 1 January 2013 and end in 2020. This should, however, remain in the context of the transition to the global and, comprehensive legally binding regime which is applicable to all parties.

Your Excellency,

The Government of Malta has during the past years taken several initiatives which aid to mitigate climate change. This includes the several initiatives which my Government has taken either through national funds as well as through the European Regional Development Fund to educate members of the public to invest in renewable sources of energy. To date thousands of citizens benefitted of grants for the purchase of solar water heaters and photovoltaic systems for domestic use. The industry and the commercial enterprise were also encouraged to take initiatives to become more energy efficient and to take up renewable sources of energy.

As a small island state in the Mediterranean region, Malta is extremely vulnerable to climate change. We fully understand the challenges of adapting to the negative impacts of climate change and therefore we would like to share our narrative here at the COP. The Government of Malta launched its National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy on 31 May 2012. The approach adopted in this strategy is to interrelate between climate change impact, vulnerabilities and adaptation needs. Malta stresses that the Adaptation Strategy addresses Climate Change adaptation in Malta in a holistic manner and proposes a number of action points which should be undertaken in various sectors which are likely to be affected by Climate Change.

Due to its size, geographical location and precipitation patterns, ‘water conservation’ is the principal adaptation concern for Malta. Indeed the Government of Malta, is already implementing a number of measures aimed at improving the management of its limited water resources.

The Maltese Government has recognised that, as United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said in Seoul 2009 *“change does not come from the top-down. It comes from the bottom-up. It does not begin in world capitals. It comes from people and communities.”* Education is therefore a key priority for my Government to combat climate change in a concrete manner. We acknowledge that there is always more to be done, however, we shall continue to make tangible efforts to create further opportunities to mitigate and adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

In Conclusion, Your Excellency,

The fight against climate change requires a global effort from all. This can only be achieved through **ambition** and **flexibility** on behalf of all Parties. Durban proved to be successful because Parties endeavoured to build bridges, they crossed paths in order not to lose focus of the challenges we face. This Conference must deliver a further step towards the transition to a global and, comprehensive legally binding regime which is applicable to all parties. I

therefore augur that the same spirit of cooperation and compromise prevails here in Doha and to achieve a successful outcome.