

**Statement of
H. E. Mr. Zoran Milanović,
Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia
at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change**

Paris, 30 November 2015

Your Excellency, Mr Secretary-General of the United Nations,
Your Excellency, President Hollande,
Your Excellency, President of the 21st Conference of the Parties Fabius,
Distinguished guests,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the beginning, please allow me to express words of gratitude to our French hosts for organizing such a historic global event here in Paris. Again, we offer our deepest condolences for all the victims of recent terrorist attacks in Paris and around the globe. The fact that we have gathered here in such a number only testifies our solidarity and determination to fight not only climate change but also senseless and barbaric violence embodied in the modern terrorist scourge.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The goal that we expect to achieve is indeed an ambitious one. We have reached the point where the climate change is one of the most important challenges the global community has faced. It has an enormous impact on the economy, development, political stability and security, and human rights worldwide.

With the adoption of a new UN 2030 Development Agenda, and its Global Goals for Sustainable Development, we have made an important step this autumn towards securing our common future. Even though we are satisfied with the fact that the climate change has been recognized as one of stand-alone goals, we believe that a new legally binding global climate agreement, which will lay down our joint commitment to reduce and limit greenhouse gas emissions in all countries, remains the final piece of the sustainable development puzzle. It should be a top priority for all of us.

Therefore, allow me to extend sincere gratitude to everyone who has been involved in the process of the future agreements' preparation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The responsibilities and obligations should be allocated to parties not only on the basis of their greenhouse gas emissions, but also considering their capacities and the gross domestic product. Countries that largely contribute to emissions and have the economic strength to undertake measures, must take more ambitious goals. At the same time, we need to find a way to jointly assist the least developed countries meet the requirements of a new climate agreement.

Focus on energy effectiveness and renewable energy sources can lead to opening of large number of the new “green jobs”. At the same time, it helps in meeting the requirements of climate change area. Lack of funds must not be a justification for keeping with “business as usual”. Old models of growth, based on high levels of carbon are no longer effective. Instead they represent the threat of destruction of Earth for future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this moment we are at one of the most crucial crossroads of the future of our planet. Therefore, in the year in which the United Nations have celebrated its grand jubilee, its 70th birthday, let us all make the final effort in this year – with the establishment of a new and universal global climate agreement. To that goal, I invite all of you to embark on this endeavour and wish you all success.

Thank you!