

**Intervention of the President of the Republic of Cyprus – COP 21
30 November 2015**

Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First and foremost, I would like to express once again my most sincere condolences and solidarity to our dear colleague President Hollande, to the people of France and to the victims' families of the heinous Paris terror attacks.

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the French Government for hosting this important event in Paris, despite the challenging time France is experiencing at the moment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The findings contained in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicate that global warming is an undeniable fact and it is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid- 20th century.

We must rise to these challenges and assume our respective, appropriate responsibility. Only by acting collectively, decisively and with greater urgency and ambition can we avoid the worst consequences of a rapidly warming planet.

Excellencies,

Cyprus is a Mediterranean island state, located in an area that is already experiencing the first serious effects of climate change.

Cyprus has only become an Annex One (Developed Countries with Legally Binding Quantitative Mitigation Commitments) and a Kyoto Protocol Party in 2013. In this context, we fully comply with the commitments and expectations of the International Community and the European Union.

We have already ratified the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol establishing the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol from 1 January 2013 until 31 December 2020.

We have also collectively with EU and its Members States submitted our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions and we are collectively providing the adequate means of implementation for mitigation and adaptation action in developing countries, including a particular focus on support to the most vulnerable and those with the least ability to mobilize other resources.

We are devoted to further continue our climate action, including scaling up the mobilization of climate finance in the context of a meaningful mitigation action and transparency of implementation.

I can announce today that the Republic of Cyprus, assuming fully its share of global responsibility, despite its size and its difficult financial situation, is ready to contribute to the Green Climate Fund the sum of 350 000 euros.

Dear friends,

This COP is of critical importance and should be a historic milestone for enhancing global collective action and accelerating the global transformation to a low carbon and climate resilient society.

Our expectation is the adoption of a new Agreement with legally binding mitigation commitments preferably in the form of a new Protocol, applicable to all, that aims to ensure the global temperature increase stays below 2 degrees Celsius and that is rule based. This agreement should foster climate resilient and sustainable development as well as facilitate adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change.

Furthermore, it should encourage the highest possible level of ambition by all countries, in a way that is fair, efficient and transparent and be able to capture easily any increase in ambition. This means shouldering climate action in line with responsibilities and capabilities; it means promoting opportunity and choice; it means supporting action. And it means solidarity with the vulnerable developing countries that will be affected by the impacts of climate change.

Thank you.