

Check against delivery!

**Statement of the Prime Minister of Estonia Taavi Rõivas
at the Leaders Event
in Paris, 30 November 2015**

Mr President, Excellencies,

A global agreement is our only chance to effectively tackle climate change that affects us all, our security and our welfare, no matter in which corner of the Earth we live. For example, the accelerating rise of sea levels and degradation of ecosystems is already threatening the very survival of the Small Island Developing States.

We have to send a strong message to the world and stand behind our commitment for creating low carbon and climate-resilient future.

Hence it is of utmost importance to conclude our negotiations here with an ambitious and binding package. Like European Union in general, also Estonia is fully committed to this goal and we are happy to see so many intended nationally determined contributions put on the table – this clearly demonstrates that the global community is willing to take real and concerted action.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We need a dynamic long term approach which will eventually bring us to the target of “below 2°C”. Two elements are essential to achieve this.

Firstly, we need a mechanism for reviewing progress and increasing ambition over time, supported by regular reporting and verification. Parties should be flexible to review the commitments taking into account their changing capabilities, while keeping in sight the long-term goal.

And secondly, defining a clear framework for climate finance after 2020 is very important. Technological development and transfer, capacity building, and climate finance should promote universal participation and facilitate the efficient implementation of our strategies.

In today’s world, economic growth does not need to come at the expense of the environment. It is vital to use the potential of the tools in our hands – including innovative ICT solutions in virtually all areas. In Estonia alone, we estimate that we save some 2% of GDP each year as efficiency gain by signing documents digitally - no need to spend excess time and waste resources. All contracts, applications, transfers, etc. are signed digitally and shared electronically. Now, imagine the impact if digital signatures would be used all over the world!

Dear colleagues,

we have an opportunity here to make history and change the future. If we conclude the current negotiations with an ambitious binding Agreement and implement our policies accordingly, positive results are bound to follow. We can achieve more sustainable use of our limited natural resources and improve ecosystems providing better quality of life for generations to come. This is definitely worth our global effort.

Thank you!