

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,

Before I will formally hand over this gavel to minister Carolina Schmidt [subject to your approval, of course], I would like to share a personal reflection with you. **Exactly one year ago** I took over this place at the podium from my friend, Fijian Prime Minister, Frank Bainimarama. I was thrilled, but also a little bit scared, to take up this work with you. The pile of proposals, iterations and drafts was probably as high as this table. But **together** we managed to jump over the bar of expectations and to adopt the much needed Katowice Rulebook. We have assembled together a manual for efficient implementation of the Paris Agreement. It was **our common success** which would not be possible without your wisdom, skill and **personal dedication**.

In the same spirit of inclusiveness Poland wanted to give voice in the climate policy to all groups of our societies – and especially, to those at risk of exclusion, due to their personal, social and economic background. One year ago we delivered the **Just Transition Declaration**, adopted by the Heads of States and Governments. Today we know that it is no longer possible, in ambitious climate policymaking, to ignore the needs and dignity of vulnerable social groups.

The second issue that I decided to highlight during COP24 was our common goal that we adopted in the Paris Agreement – achieving climate neutrality in the second half of the century. This was a game-changer which requires action in all sectors of the economy and society. It is no longer only about the energy. That is why I proposed **ministerial declarations on forests and on electromobility**. And I am very happy that all those initiatives gained traction not only in this process but also by spurring action on the ground.

Now, looking back at my last gavel at COP24, I gather that a lot has changed since. Maybe the world is not moving yet at the pace we would like. But my hope rests in particular with the young people. They have the courage to speak up and remind us, that we inherited this planet from our parents and we need to hand it over to the future generations. We need them, and **we need everyone**, because the transition to climate-neutral development is a civilizational challenge that we can overcome only by acting together, in the spirit of **justice and solidarity**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I heard many times that **Katowice marked a change** from negotiations to implementation. But there are still some decisions that need to be made. We come here, to Madrid, to fill the last blank pages in the Katowice Rulebook and to further strengthen

the Convention. I am leaving you in the hands of dedicated and skilled Chilean Presidency and I wish them – on behalf of all of us – to find solutions to all COP25 challenges. And to do so precisely by Friday, December the 13th, 6 pm. I thank also Spanish hosts for their warm hospitality and extremely quick reaction in need.

Dear Carolina,

I am not leaving you. In the last days, exactly two weeks ago, in Poland we formed new government and in this new government we also established a new ministry. It appeared to be the Ministry of Climate and I was appointed Polish Minister of Climate – **first ever Minister of Climate in Poland**. So, as you are jumping in this COP25 Presidency, I would like to declare to you my friendship and dedication. You can count on me any time in need – including advice on jumping.

Thank you.