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Belém (Brazil)



Statement by

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Mr President,

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Dear colleagues,

Ten years ago, in Paris, the world made a promise. We united behind science and solidarity, to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

Today, here in Belém, as we mark the 10th anniversary of the historic Paris Agreement, we must ask ourselves with honesty: *Are we keeping that promise?*

The science tells us we are not yet on track. Global temperatures have risen considerably and exceeded 1.5 degrees for the first time last year. Extreme weather events are multiplying across the globe.

The message from nature is clear.

Excellencies,

Since the very first sustainability conference in Rio, we have gradually increased our ambitions. Returning to Brazil, here in Belém, let's turn ambition into action.

We have the prerequisites: Over the past decade, we have seen renewable energy capacity grow, new technologies emerge, and net-zero commitments multiply.

The task before us is now to not only raise ambition but to deliver tangible results.
The EU is committed to deliver.
Austria is committed to deliver.

Excellencies,

As we look for more solutions, let us not forget one of our most powerful allies — nature itself. Forests are the lungs of our planet. They absorb CO_2, regulate rainfall and shelter vast biodiversity. Protecting and restoring forests must be central to our climate strategy. Nurturing our forests is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions, to strengthen resilience and to safeguard our future and create a future proof bioeconomy.

Likewise, our mountain ecosystems — often overlooked in global debates — are vital for our planet's balance. They are the water towers of the world, providing freshwater to half of humanity. But rising temperatures are melting glaciers, destabilizing slopes, and threatening livelihoods downstream.

Let us strengthen support for nature-based solutions — from reforestation and watershed protection to the restoration of peatlands and mangroves.

COP 30 should send a strong signal on such solutions, as part of a larger action plan on 1.5 degrees.

Colleagues,

Climate change puts extraordinary pressure on communities already affected by armed conflict. Climate action in these countries is an investment in peace and stability.

Let me assure you: We hear the calls not to forget about climate action in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery.

Therefore, at the United Nations in New York, Austria is taking climate action. As current co-chair of UN Climate Security Mechanism, we believe that protecting our climate also means protecting lives and preventing conflict.

And we will continue these efforts, if elected as a member of the UN Security Council next year, for the period 2027-28.

Excellencies,

We need a climate policy that strengthens competitiveness, promotes innovation, and empowers the youth to be agents in our efforts towards a green transition.

If we act decisively, by 2035 we can live in a world powered by renewable energy, where our forests stand tall, our mountains are protected, and our economies are stronger and more resilient – for this and generations to come.

Let us foster such green growth together here in Belém.

Thank you.