

STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr Petr Fiala, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
at the World Leaders Climate Action Summit and the first part of the
High-level Segment of the COP 29 UNFCCC
Baku, 12–13 November 2024

Mr President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen!

First of all, I would like to thank the President and People of Azerbaijan for hosting this important conference.

Climate change is a **serious danger** for us all. We see its devastating impact **everywhere** in the world. There are floods in Europe, hurricanes in America, landslides in Asia or drought in Africa. It can increase some of our biggest challenges, like health, poverty, and hunger.

We all know the risks. But we also know, how difficult it is to move from words to action. I am proud that my country, the Czech Republic, has made some good progress.

Since 1990, our carbon dioxide emissions are down by more than a third.

Our energy sector changes to the core: We will discontinue coal. And we push for renewables and nuclear power.

As I said in Dubai last year, I **strongly believe**, that nuclear power is essential to meet climate goals.

It gives me hope, that nuclear energy is more and more popular around the world. We also see development of new technologies. Czech Republic has 50 years of experience with nuclear power. We are ready to assist any country, that wants to use it in the future. This includes SMRs or traditional technology.

Nuclear power has many benefits. It produces **extremely clean** energy. It is also very safe, with the help of skilled experts and strong international standards.

Yes, international cooperation, global action, and innovative solutions are the **keys to solve** this crisis.

But only reduction of effects is not enough. We also need to focus on adaptation.

We must re-consider our priorities in many ways. We must help each other to change our countryside and infrastructure to manage weather extremes.

In everything we do, our cooperation **must be practical**.

When I look at the history of global goals, I see many fails. In many areas and regions, it is **extremely difficult** to fulfil the promises made.

It is not likely, that we will have more success with even stronger targets.

We need to agree on **reliable consensus**. It must be ambitious **and realistic**. This is more important than bombastic declarations, which are then impossible to deliver.

It is good, that the European Union wants to lead the way. But others must follow to make a real difference.

That is why I really appreciate the commitment of major economic powers of the world. I am glad, that they set good examples.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen! The topic of this conference is noble and necessary. We face hardships, but we must **not give up**.

My country, the Czech Republic, is ready to do its part, in cooperation with the international community.

To build and keep peace, to prevent suffering, and to increase chances for good life for all. Thank you for your attention.