

## **Address of the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Gitanas Nausėda, at the UN Climate Change Conference**

Mister President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lithuania is committed to be a part of the global solution.

As nature is declining at an unprecedented rate, it is time for us to come together as humankind. Big and small, North and South, rich and poor – we must all change our ways and stop the climate crisis that leads to biodiversity loss and threats to public health.

Lithuania knows that crises come with opportunities. We know the power of change. Ten years ago, we transformed our heating sector by switching from natural gas to sustainable indigenous biomass. We kept more money in people's pockets and we also reduced pollution emissions, while staying competitive.

Today Lithuania strongly supports international and EU climate change goals. We have already reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 58 percent. Our plan, endorsed by the parliament, is to go further: to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 70 percent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and to cover at least 50 percent of our electricity needs from renewables. The whole Lithuanian economy will be climate neutral by 2050.

As fossil fuel prices are reaching new highs, I see new opportunities. The Paris Agreement together with the digitization drive form a clear roadmap. To achieve ambitious goals, new partnerships must be forged both locally and internationally.

That is why I called on Lithuanian municipalities, businesses, industries, NGO's, and every Lithuanian to join the Green Lithuania Declaration. My country also encourages closer regional cooperation and joint Baltic States' actions to tackle climate change and the deterioration of the Baltic Sea, and to better preserve our nature.

As a global community, we should rethink the ways we produce and consume. For the industry production to leave no CO2 footprint, it needs to move closer to consumer markets. We should also pay more attention to compliance with the highest environmental and nuclear standards. Our technological shift should be sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Fellow Leaders, we all hold keys to a better future. Let us use them for global welfare!

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