

**Intervention by the Minister of Environment and Climate  
Action of Portugal**

**25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations  
Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP25)**

**Madrid, December 11, 10:00-13:00**

Mrs. President,

Distinguished colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate the Chilean Presidency and the Government of Spain for their commitment with the organization of this Conference, which allow us to reaffirm the sense of urgency, commitment and cooperation needed in the global response to climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The further we delay climate action, the more intense the effects of climate change and the greater the costs of inaction.

Portugal's commitment to combating climate change under the Paris Agreement is firm and determined. Therefore, we submitted, a year ahead of schedule, our Long Term Strategy for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, which enshrines the objective of achieving carbon neutrality in Portugal by 2050.

## *CHECK AGAIN DELIVERY*

Our path is clear. Our Roadmap sets out the decarbonization path to achieve emissions reduction of more than 85% in 2050 and compensation for other emissions through land and forest use.

For that, we need more sustainable and resilient forests, which requires a new approach to the landscape, the recognition of ecosystem services and the adoption of natural-based solutions. Portugal is taking firm steps in this direction.

Because the next decade is crucial, we have ambitiously redefined the 2030 targets: reducing emissions by 55%, achieving 35% energy efficiency and reaching 47% renewables in final energy consumption.

To reduce transport emissions by 40% we are focusing on electric mobility, high performance buses and we have significantly reduced the price of public transport. With this program, in just 6 months, we increased its use by 12% and the number of passes sold in both metropolitan areas by 35%.

Currently 55% of electricity is of renewable origin and by 2030 we aspire to reach 80%, eliminating the use of coal by 2023, anticipating the date previously announced.

Solar's latest boost allows us to consolidate the ambition to double renewable installed capacity by 2030.

## *CHECK AGAIN DELIVERY*

The world price record (€ 14.76 / Mwh) obtained at the first solar auction in Portugal shows that the energy transition is an opportunity to lower costs for households and to leverage the competitiveness of the economy.

We embrace innovation and the creation of new opportunities it provides us. We look at the development of the hydrogen and renewable gas value chain with interest and we perceive here an alternative for the more energy intensive sectors to decarbonize.

For us is clear. The choice is not between growth and environmental conservation. In Portugal, it will be precisely the scenario of greater economic development that will easily achieve carbon neutrality.

Dear colleagues,

We must be able to preserve the spirit of global cooperation and progressive ambition of the Paris Agreement.

The rules must be solid pillars for the operationalization of the action and catalysts for ambition. We want to achieve a positive outcome on Article 6, which supports ambition and ensures full integrity on mitigation, otherwise we will undermine the credibility of the system and our multilateral process.

These market mechanisms should create strong incentives to reduce emissions now and in the future. To do this we have to ensure that no double counting of emission reductions occurs.

And we have to make sure that the transition to the post-2020 period does not compromise the current and future ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

*CHECK AGAIN DELIVERY*

Next year will be crucial to the statement and consolidation of the Paris Agreement.

Portugal is doing its part and wants to encourage all countries to set concrete targets and implement the necessary policies to reverse rising emissions and reduce the costs and impacts of late action.

Madam President of the Blue COP,

Portugal shares Chile's view on the need to deepen the relationship between oceans and climate change.

Increasing global climate ambition would be the best contribution of UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement to ocean health.

In June 2020, Portugal and Kenya will co-host the United Nations Ocean Conference in Lisbon, which will provide an excellent opportunity to deepen this relationship.

We invite all countries to participate and contribute with their experience on this discussion, which we feel is urgent and decisive.

Mrs. President, Dear Colleagues,

The calls for climate emergency result from the finding that climate change is not a problem of the future generations - they are a current problem!

We must Act! In Portugal, we already feel its effects and that's why adaptation is a priority.

Time's running out, it's almost too late.

Portugal will do it! Portugal is doing its work and will not allow that others to fail!

Count on Portugal to fight the climate crisis!

Thank you very much.