

Statement of the Republic of Austria
COP 24 stocktake on
Pre-2020 implementation and ambition

Check against delivery

Thank you Mr. President,

for this opportunity to engage in the Pre-2020 stocktake.

Austria currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Commissioner Cañete has already outlined the key EU mitigation efforts up to 2020 and its achievements so far. I would like to add on with some Austrian examples.

Pre-2020 action is an essential step for us all to meet the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement.

The famous author of the little Prince coined the inspirational statement that “It’s not for us to forecast the future, but to shape it” that motivates our approach to climate action before 2020.

Climate change is not something abstract and distant, but it is something we can see and feel: the impacts of climate change in our Austrian communities.

Without a doubt, climate change is the biggest challenge of our lifetime. We are here today to highlight, that we take our climate action commitments seriously.

The new Austrian federal government declared the development of an integrated climate and energy strategy as the government’s first priority end of last year. Today, I can proudly say that we passed Austria’s mission 2030 earlier this year, which now forms the basis of our actions until and beyond 2020 and 2030. This strategy allowed us to take swift action to implement stringent climate action in Austria.

A coordinated climate and energy policy strikes the balance between ecological sustainability, affordability and security of supply both now and in the future.

One of the most important measures is to embrace our responsibility to decarbonize between now and 2050. In this context, we launched the biggest

ever initiative in Austria to phase out oil-heating systems in residential housing and have launched the process to revamp Austria's renewable energy strategy by 2020.

Reminding us that the destiny of future generations is in our hands motivates us to embrace future-oriented thinking and future-oriented action to bring pre-2020 action forward.

We look forward to using the outcome of the pre-2020 stocktake at COP24 as an illustration of progress in the field of climate action. We hope it inspires us all in stepping up climate action together to reach the Paris agreement long-term goals for our future generations.