

Address by H.E. Mr. Ion CÎMPEANU

State Secretary, Ministry of Environment

Head of delegation of Romania

Katowice, 12 December, 2018

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to have the opportunity to address to you today. Please allow me to thank the Government of Poland and the city of Katowice for their hospitality and excellent support.

In the friendly and inclusive spirit of the Talanoa concept, I would like to express Romania's willingness and commitment to working together to find the best ways to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement. We must act collectively, quickly and with determination if we want to fulfil the promises we have made.

In this respect, Romania decided to support the "Solidarity and Just Transition of the workforce - Silesia Declaration", as well as "The Ministerial Katowice Declaration on Forests for Climate".

With respect to our national efforts, I would like to inform you that Romania is continuing its trend of decoupling its economic growth from the greenhouse gas emissions. By 2020 Romania will finalize the Long Term Strategy for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, according to the EU commitments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We all have been and still are experiencing the increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather events. Climate change is already affecting people's lives and environment, and failure to take the right ambitious actions now, will lead to further harm.

Climate research has definitively shown how immediate the need for climate action is. The latest IPCC Special Report is urging us to take bold actions without any further delay.

The Paris Agreement provides for a great opportunity for the global economy to smoothly transition to low-emissions and climate resilient economies. This transition is the key to long-term sustainable economic growth and wellbeing, creation of green jobs and improvement of ecosystems and health. At global level, the economic cost of climate action, of less than 0.1 % of the annual global GDP growth, is estimated to be modest and fully compatible with economic growth and development.

The debates and the negotiations of our conference confirm that the international community remains strongly committed to the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. I am convinced that the Parties will find the wisdom to agree on comprehensive implementation arrangements.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The COP 24 in Katowice is the next important step since Paris. We are convinced that adopting and implementing a clear rulebook are essential for putting the world on the right path towards the achievement of objectives of Paris Agreement. A transparent, accountable and comprehensive set of rules will allow us to take stock of the current situation, as well as track our progress, and help all Parties to develop and implement national policies.

Agreeing upon a common set of rules for all Parties, in a transparent and fully accountable manner, will strengthen trust and ensure the necessary conditions to implement individual and global commitments.

Romania, as a Member State of the European Union, is fully committed to achieving our common global goals regarding climate change and we are confident that the outcome of this conference, based on the political momentum, will be successful.

Thank you.