

STATEMENT
OF HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. LÁSZLÓ SÓLYMOS,
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Dear Excellences, honourable ladies and gentlemen,

let me thank the governments of Chile and Spain for inviting us here in the splendid city of Madrid. Your successful cooperation is an example of our strong commitment to work hard and fast towards our common goal.

We all have gathered here because we are aware of the urgency to accelerate climate action supported by the recent, clear scientific evidence. If we want to preserve our planet for the future generations, fundamental and transformative changes are needed in our key systems. They provide us with necessities such as food, energy and mobility and at the same time present climate and environmental pressures and health impacts. We need to move towards a more sustainable and climate-friendly production and consumption patterns. Slovakia is fully aware of steps that need to be taken and has been consistently working towards their implementation.

In the last 30 years, Slovakia has undergone radical industrial and social changes. Our GHG emissions decreased by roughly 40 % since 1990. We have experienced changes in heavy industry, a large drop in energy consumption, changes in agriculture, expansion of transport, and development of infrastructure. We have achieved significant fuel switch from coal and oil to natural gas and renewables, and transformation to less energy intensive industrial activities. Our electricity generation has become one of the least carbon-intensive, with almost 80% of electricity generated from carbon free sources.

Recently, Slovakia has made a politically bold decision: to cease subsidies for domestic coal-fired electricity production by 2023. This will lead to phasing-out of inefficient coal extraction and transformation of the entire coal-mining region, based on just transition approach. As a result, the future of this region will go hand-in-hand with smart and low-carbon innovations.

In addition, we have decided to increase our 2030 reduction targets in EU non-emission trading sectors from 12% to 20%. At the same time, our Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy targets up to 2030 will be also increased.

We believe that these efforts will help us to join other EU countries in achieving European climate neutrality by 2050.

To support these ambitions, Slovakia has allocated additional 2.5 billion euros for climate and environmental investments in the next decade. We are aware of our share of global responsibility. Therefore, this year for the first time, Slovakia made a contribution of 2 million US dollars to the Green Climate Fund and plans to continue to do so in the coming years.

While in the past national climate and energy policies used to be more reactive, now it is time to move to proactive approach. We are already reflecting this approach in our strategic planning.

In this context we also underline the importance of Article six of the Paris Agreement. Proper implementation of this Article would allow countries to reduce emissions in more cost-effective ways. Article six could become an important pillar for decarbonisation, and may facilitate investments in technologies with high mitigation potential.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have no more time to waste. Strong partnerships from global to local levels, and across all sectors are essential on the way to a safer and more prosperous world.

Action speaks louder than words. We all need to unite and act in this challenging time of transformation.

Thank you.