

National statement  
of the President of the Slovak Republic  
H.E. Peter Pellegrini  
World Leaders Climate Action Summit (COP29), Baku

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, my country, as others in Europe, has experienced the hottest summer on record – it brought heavy rains and devastating floods.

The greenhouse gas concentrations are the highest in humankind. We have crossed critical 1,5 degrees in 12 consecutive months. This gives us a real taste of what the Planet can become.

Climate change accelerates - so it's detrimental effects on our Planet. Longer we wait, more we can lose, in terms of lives, ecosystems, and economies.

Esteemed Colleagues, in face of climate change danger – every single country is too small. True commitment of all to multilateralism is badly needed.

Let us ask - can we succeed without all the biggest economies and emitters stepping up? Developing countries need our solidarity. Can they succeed if our approach to financing and its contributors remain the same?

Everyone needs to speed up. My country does. We cut our emissions by almost 50% since 1990.

In energy sector, we shut down our last coalmine in 2023, and remaining two coal power plants recently. It's a big step towards full phase-out of coal from our power generation. At this COP Slovakia joins the *"Call to Action for No New Coal"*.

Soon, my country's electricity will come from low emission sources by 90% - mainly nuclear and renewables. We will also become its net exporter. Already, we help Ukraine which lacks electricity due to Russian aggression.

For Slovakia, the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer in Europe, nuclear is an indispensable on path towards neutrality. In innovations, we want to go beyond small modular reactors. Only around 40% of nuclear fuel, we can turn into energy in current large-scale reactors. We want to become leader in multiple reuse of this spent fuel. This could be a real breakthrough - in energy security, or costly nuclear waste storage. We could secure enough energy for many generations to come.

Till end of this decade, my country plans to reduce emissions at least by 55%. To achieve it, we will invest 14 billion EUR to decarbonize sectors, increase renewables, and to advance our resilience.

I am advocate of rational choices that do not harm the working people, the most vulnerable, our competitiveness, and prosperity. If we lose trust of our citizens, as politicians, we cannot succeed.

Slovakia pledged to contribute 2,2 mil. EUR to the Green Climate Fund by 2027. Our climate finance grew. It helps our developing partners to build their cleaner future, and their resilience to climate adversity.

Colleagues, I wish this COP and its Presidency a progress towards meaningful climate action in line with the Global Stocktake - along all strands of the Paris agreement - for sustainable well-being *of* and *at* our Planet. Thank you!