



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
**MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND SPATIAL PLANNING**

***NATIONAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND SPATIAL PLANNING OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA***

H.E. SIMON ZAJC

UN Climate Change Conference (COP 25) - December 2019

Madrid, 10.12.2019

(Distinguished President Sánchez),
Heads of States and Governments,
President of the COP25, Minister Carolina Schmidt,
Ministers, Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to express my gratitude to the Government of Chile for their dedicated work to ensure a successful COP25. I would also like to thank the Government of Spain for offering their support to the Chilean Presidency. We greatly appreciate the decision of Spain to step up to the plate and make sure that the COP25 meeting takes place today.

Climate change, as we all know, is one of the most pressing and defining global issues of our time. As we hear every day **it is our generation** that has the **possibility** and **duty** to reverse the negative trend of global warming.

Last year, at COP24, most of the Rulebook was successfully adopted. This year's COP has to finalise the last elements of the Rulebook in order to make the Paris Agreement fully operational.

As we are building on the current momentum of the call for more ambitious action, we must show that this call is heard and understood. Our climate efforts must be in line with the scientific consensus on limiting global warming to 1.5°C, and that the scientific community must actively be engaged in this climate action process.

As we update our National Determined Contributions and prepare ambitious long-term climate strategies on the basis of IPCC reports and this year's Emissions Gap Report, let us keep in mind that the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement will demand joint efforts from us all. No single country can tackle climate change on its own. Each of us is but a small piece in the grand mosaic that is the Paris agreement.

Slovenia advocates the vision of carbon neutrality by 2050 at the latest. With this in mind, we are in the final stages of the preparation of the new climate law which will

incorporate the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 into our legislation. This will represent a solid ground for Slovenia's long-term climate strategy as part of our transition to a green economy and a more sustainable society.

Slovenia, for example is also an active member of the Green Group consisting of six small climate-ambitious countries which aim at promoting environmental issues in international relations. Let me draw your attention to the joint statement of the Green Group, in which we call for enhanced collective action and ambitious measures, such as accelerating technology transfer to developing and the least developed countries, in order to address global warming and climate crisis successfully.

Distinguished delegates,

One of the key issues in terms of meeting the objectives is climate financing. Developed countries should continue to make progress towards the goal of mobilising \$100 billion by 2020 in the context of achieving Sustainable Development Goals. This year, Slovenia joined the Climate Finance Initiative and has, for the first time, contributed to the Green Climate Fund and will continue to do so in the following years.

We also need to strengthen the inter-connection of climate change mitigation and adaptation with international development cooperation. In addition, we need to increase private sector engagement in meeting both our national and global climate change goals.

In aiming to implement more ambitious climate action we cannot become too polarised, we must work on even better understanding each other in order to come to wishful result, that our planet and future generations need.

Thank you!