

S t a t e m e n t
by Mr. Jan Dusík,
First Deputy Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic,
at the United Nations Thematic Debate
“Addressing Climate Change: The United Nations and the World at Work”
New York, USA, 11-12 February 2008

Excellency, Mr. President,
Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Heads of Delegation, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me express my deep appreciation to Mr. President, Srgjan Kerim, for the possibility to contribute to this important debate addressing a worldwide issue of climate change.

The Czech Republic participating in the EU activities and sharing the EU commitments for climate change mitigation fully supports the statement by Slovenia made on behalf of the European Community and its Member States.

The Bali conference demonstrated that **cooperation, partnership and dialogue are crucial aspects in tackling climate change**. The Bali Action Plan and important building blocks - shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and financial flows - were successfully reached. Furthermore, the time frame for completion of an agreement for the post 2012 period was launched. All of those partial steps towards the final agreement are necessary in the whole process of finding solution to the complex topic of climate change. As Bali showed, future agreement on the post-Kyoto regime is very challenging but nevertheless reachable in 2009 in Copenhagen.

The Czech Republic is ready to take an active part in the forthcoming international negotiations as the EU member state and one of the EU countries having the EU presidency in the decisive negotiation period. We expect that **all main building blocks** will be deliberated and **covered by the post-2012 agreement**. In the mitigation agenda, the important scientific evidence from the 4th Assessment Report of the IPCC should be reflected and information should be promoted in order to provide fair sharing of mitigation efforts in the Copenhagen agreement. The role of the Carbon Market as a main mitigation and financial tool ought to be enhanced. A lot of work needs to be done in preparation and implementation of the adaptation policies and measures especially in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Less Developed Countries (LDCs) which are most vulnerable to the climate change impacts. Enhanced action on technology development and transfer in order to support action on mitigation and adaptation is crucial. In this context all financial instruments established under the Convention should be made operational as soon as possible.

The Czech Republic supports the effort of the United Nations and **calls on strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** which represents the **only forum where legally binding**

decisions are taken. We recognize the **importance of the whole UN system.** At the global, regional and national level many United Nations organizations are currently undertaking climate change activities which include inter alia monitoring, scientific research, reporting, capacity building, technology transfer or financing. Furthermore, UNEP which is expected to set combating climate change as one of the priorities within the Medium Term Strategy 2010-2013 even devoted the 10th special session of the UNEP GC/GMEF to the thematic discussion on “Mobilizing finance to meet the climate challenge”. However, we are of the view that **in order to ensure complementation rather than duplication of the UN activities the development of an effective framework for greater coherence and coordination of the work of the UN system is needed.**

Let me recall that many of the UNFCCC Parties are at the same time Parties to other global Multilateral Environmental Agreements, such as United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar Convention, Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol. **Promotion of a synergistic approach in the MEAs implementation as well as in facilitation of activities undertaken by the relevant secretariats, could be seen as a new challenge for the UN system which is needed for the achievement of the MDGs.**

The Czech Republic fully subscribes to the Millennium Development Goals and is prepared to contribute towards their achievements within its capacities, starting from consultations, exchange of experience through assistance in drafting environmental legislation to providing environmental assistance in kind according to the Strategy of the Czech Development Assistance.

International cooperation is required to put ourselves on a path to slow, stop and reverse the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. **Donor and recipient countries and institutions should follow an integrated approach and promote synergies amongst all financial instruments** (*e.g. special funds and programmes under the GEF, World Bank, Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, specific activities under different MEAs*) **in order to secure most efficient implementation of the effort to combat climate change.**

We strongly believe that co-ordinated actions at the UN level will promote more coherent and systematic work at the national level. These both together are the preconditions for our common goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the negative impacts of climate change.

Thank you for your attention.