

**Minister Tomas Chalupa's speech for the 26th session of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council and Global Ministerial Environment Forum**

It has been many times repeated here, in UNEP, that there is a growing need to respond to the environmental challenges through a closer global cooperation and also to strengthen current global governance architecture to tackle these challenges efficiently.

However, when thinking thoroughly about the issue, unpleasant questions come to my mind: Why is the international environmental governance so fragmented? Where the environmental international community failed in its endeavour in the past? In my opinion, it is not the lack of proper institutions to govern environmental and sustainable development issues, it is the lack of implementation of agreed goals and recommendations and the lack of political will to make radical decisions with long-term positive impacts and results.

The Czech Republic, as an EU member state, supports the efforts towards strengthening and upgrading UNEP, which would allow using its expertise and knowledge and also delivering UNEP's recognized mission as the global United Nations environmental authority and highly respected representative of the environmental pillar of sustainable development governance.

Other objective that we seek is a stronger governance umbrella that can effectively coordinate all pillars of sustainable development. To be honest, such an umbrella is already in place. The international community, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, commissioned the three key institutions of the United Nations – General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, and Commission on Sustainable Development – to oversee the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development. What we need to address now is an inefficiency of the implementation of the mandate assigned and we should find courage to solve it this issue a way that would enable the institutional framework for sustainable development respond more efficiently to crosscutting challenges.

Finally, let me say that I find it very frustrating that the discussions about governance reforms have been going on for many years without substantial results, only being reflected in minor changes and recommendations. I believe that next year 2012 constitute an opportune moment for international governance and will come up with concrete and viable framework for sustainable development. Once again, to achieve this, we need a political will that goes beyond individual sectors and that promotes a holistic approach. I am convinced that we all feel now it is the time to move towards concrete decisions and my country is ready to support them.