

STATEMENT
by H.E. Mr. Richard Brabec
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of the Environment
of the Czech Republic

**at the 24th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 14th session of the Conference
of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, and
the 3rd part of the 1st session of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, Katowice,
3-14 December 2018**

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished delegates,

Firstly, let me express my utmost gratitude to the Government and People of Poland and in particular to His Excellency Andrzej Duda, the President of Poland and His Excellency Michał Kurtyka, the COP24 President, for hosting this important climate conference. The conference takes place in an industrial region heavily affected by mining activities that is a good example of how to improve the quality of environment and how to implement a gradual transition to a low carbon economy.

We all have worked hard during the first week here in Katowice and there is still a lot to be resolved. In the remaining days we need to focus all our efforts to complete a rule book that is a prerequisite for an effective implementation of the Paris Agreement.

The Czech Republic is currently well on track to fulfil its commitments under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Our greenhouse gas emissions were 35 per cent below the 1990 levels in 2016 and are projected to decrease further over next decades.

In recent years, the Czech Republic has adopted several key strategic policies in the area of climate protection. The key document representing our low carbon development strategy until 2030 with the overview up to 2050, is the Climate Protection Policy of the Czech Republic adopted by the government in 2017 that reflects the EU climate and energy objectives. It sets a binding target to reduce GHG emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2030 (compared to 2005 levels) and includes an indicative long term goal to reduce GHG emissions by 80 per cent by 2050 (compared to 1990 levels). All sectors of the economy (energy, industry, transport, waste, agriculture and forestry) shall contribute to achieving the goals with specific 42 measures outlined by the Policy. This should be, for example achieved by schemes aimed at energy efficiency, savings and use of renewables in housing sector and industry. In this respect, the Czech Republic can demonstrate its efforts by successful New Green Savings programme focused on energy savings in family houses and apartment buildings where almost 100 thousand projects were supported in the last ten years. Moreover, there is a number of other subsidy programmes in place,

for instance, subsidy program for purchase of alternative vehicles with low emissions for municipalities and regions. Another key instrument is the Operational programme Environment that supports replacement of old coal boilers in order to improve the air quality and support energy efficiency and renewable energy in households. The Czech Republic has also already reached its target for renewables by 2020 (13 %) with the current share of 14.9 per cent.

Adaptation is crucial part of our climate policy aiming to reduce damages and losses caused by adverse impacts of climate change. In 2017, our Government adopted the National Action Plan on Adaptation to Climate Change, which is an implementing document to our Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change adopted in 2015. Furthermore, in 2017, the Czech Republic adopted a Strategy for protection against negative impacts of drought which causes significant losses in the Czech Republic. Due to the severe droughts that hit my country in recent years, we introduced the Rainwater savings programme (Dešťovka) to promote better management and usage of rainfall and waste water in households and municipalities.

Very important role in climate protection play actors at local level. Our cities and villages are very active in the field of climate protection. Several of them have joined the Covenant of Mayors in order to focus on reduction of their

climate impact and protection of their citizens from adverse impacts of climate change.

In addition the Czech Republic provides finance to various climate projects in developing countries through its bilateral and multilateral channels. In 2017, the total climate specific finance flows reached more than 7 mil. EUR.

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the last years, we have witnessed devastating impacts of climate change all over the world. Number of extreme events in 2018 is alarming. In this context, I would like to highlight the importance of the IPCC special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius and the urgent need for global action. We welcome this report and at the same its shame that not all Parties share this view here in Katowice.

Despite the current difficulties at this final stage of negotiations I still believe that we can reach a reasonable compromise on the Paris Agreement Work Programme which will be acceptable for all Parties and will deliver what the whole World is expecting from us.

Thank you for your attention.