

Statement of H.E. Mr Jan Dusík,
Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic
At the 15 COP, Copenhagen, Denmark, 17 December 2009

Ms. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates:

Firstly let me express my gratitude to the Government of Denmark, and in particular to His Excellency Lars Lokke Rasmussen and to Her Excellency Connie Hedegaard, for hosting this conference, and for the effort and devotion \put into this uneasy task: to lead us through troubled waters of negotiations to a sensible result in the spirit of compromise and good will.

The deal on Bali Action Plan two years ago, as we all remember, was hammered with great difficulties. However, we then believed that here, in Copenhagen, we could reach a comprehensive agreement in legal terms, to be implemented as soon as possible and no later than in 2013. The new agreement was expected to cover all elements necessary for solid future international regime on climate change: quantified emission reduction commitments for developed countries; national mitigation actions of developing countries; innovative provisions on adaptation and technology transfer, and also ways how to finance this new regime. Measurable, reportable and verifiable actions and financing are considered to be the core of our agreement.

And where are we now? We are failing to meet the expectation from Bali. In spite of all striving and tremendous amount of work done since Montreal in 2005, when the consideration of future commitments for developed countries started, there is no new legally binding treaty on the table. I appreciate tireless work of our officials and negotiators, however, they now reached their limits and it is the responsibility of us politicians to find a way out of the impasse of negotiations, to give a clear and strong guidance to revive this process.

The deal is still within reach. We should build upon what we already have: increase the level of ambition of reduction commitment pledges made by developed countries – and the Czech Republic as part the European Union family stands ready to do so. The Czech Republic contributed to the EU pledge for the fast start finance. Climate change mitigation has also important economic and competitive implications; our emission reduction pledge must therefore be coupled by a pledge of our partners from i.a. the United States that is ambitious and in line with the scientific recommendations. Nevertheless, this will not be enough to revert climate change; developed countries alone cannot reverse the threatening growth in global emissions. We must all act together: the legally binding reduction commitments of the developed countries must be

complemented by appropriate mitigation actions in the developing world, especially in the most advanced emerging economies such as China.

We are aware that the solutions are not simple: we need to change our patterns of living by shifting to more climate friendly and sustainable economic and social development. The Czech Republic still has quite high per capita emissions of CO₂ [12,38 t/cap]. The Czech people acknowledge this historic burden and are strongly devoted to turn the economy towards low-carbon technologies, to utilise the full potential of renewable energy sources, and to increase energy efficiency and energy savings. We launched a green investment scheme – the Green Savings Programme - with the objective to bring about energy savings, improve the energy efficiency and deploy renewable energy sources in family houses, residential and apartment houses.

We must have more clarity on how the necessary financial support will be made available and from what sources. There is no single stream for financing climate change mitigation actions. Both public and private sources have their important roles. Together with the carbon market they should complement each other in order to achieve the emissions reductions in a cost-effective way, without hampering the development and fair competitiveness. We have to seek new and innovative ways of financing, the participation in financing should be as broad as possible, based on fair global distribution rules. For the sake of transparency and better monitoring of financial flows, we should clearly differentiate between financing of mitigation and adaptation.

Climate change is already happening, and many countries are already facing its negative impacts. Urgent action is needed to assist the most vulnerable and least developed countries in the effort to adapt their societies to the changing climate conditions. We should also seek opportunities for linkages and synergies with other relevant global environmental agreements in related matters (such as biological diversity and desertification).

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have no time to waste in endless negotiations on small details. Despite our inability to reach a legally binding agreement at this conference, we have to work even harder and finalise a new legal deal as soon as possible, not later than by June 2010. The new climate deal may not satisfy all, but should move us towards low-carbon future that is not hostile to the mankind and the nature. We owe this to the future generations, which will judge the failure or success of our efforts. I truly hope that their judgment of our present decisions to face the climate change will be a positive one.