

**Global vision and responsibility: a message from
Copenhagen**

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Draft Statement – CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

President,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate change is a global problem that affects every country around the globe - and specifically Austria with its sensitive alpine regions.

When discussing environmental action and policies, we often tend to focus just on costs and potential impact on growth. But compared with these costs, the toll we pay for non-action is much higher – it is human suffering caused by the impacts of climate change.

National and global policies therefore have to equally respect social, ecological and economic aspects and needs, including the fact that we require qualitative growth which in turn creates green jobs.

There is no alternative to a new dimension of global, fair and effective climate policy based on our common goals as well as our shared responsibilities and individual capabilities.

In this spirit, Austria fully supports the ambitious goals and far reaching proposals made by the European Union – as long as we see comparable reduction efforts on the part of all players, developed countries, emerging economies and developing countries.

As we cope with the impacts of the financial crisis, we also have to think about providing new and additional financial resources to counteract climate change and its disastrous global effects. One of these resources might be a tax on financial transactions, which could contribute to generating the funds we urgently need to take effective action.

Because it is clear that there is a close interrelation between taking action to prevent global economic crises and avoiding global environmental disasters.

Therefore, distinguished colleagues, let's think out of the box, join forces and take effective action starting here and now in Copenhagen.