



- Prime Minister, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:
- Thank you so much for providing me with this opportunity to welcome you to Copenhagen. I am very much looking forward to hosting you tonight and especially to showing you how City Hall Square will turn Copenhagen into Hopenhagen in the time to come.
- Many of you have travelled far to get here. All of you still have a long journey ahead before we get a good result in Copenhagen.

- Citizens all over the world are calling for action; cities all over the world are ready to help you put all our hopes and goals into action. Next week, mayors from more than 70 of the biggest and most important cities will come to Copenhagen for the Climate Summit for Mayors to stand side by side with you in the fight against climate change.
- Today, cities are responsible for more than 75% of global CO2 emissions. We also represent more than 50% of the world's population and some of the world's largest economies. So, we may be part of the problem, but we are definately part of the solution. Cities are ready to act. Together

with heads of state, we are ready to assume the mantle of leadership in reaching the same goal: a greener planet.

- Al Gore says it very clearly in his new book, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. We need to go very far, very fast." And in Copenhagen we are ready to do so and Mayors from the world's biggest cities are ready to do so. I do hope you will join us.
- In Copenhagen we have been working hard to prepare for your arrival. You are indeed, some of our most important guests this year.

- As a former Commissioner I negotiated for the EC in Kyoto. I know what is expected from you. I know you will face days of hard work and nights without sleep, but, on the optimistic side, I also know how solutions can be reached at the very last moment. Of one thing I am absolutely sure - you will all do a great job in Copenhagen.
- I also hope you will be able to see some of the work we have been doing in Copenhagen. We have a vision, a goal in fact, to be the first carbon neutral capital in the world by 2025. This is surely a great challenge. We have 50 specific initiatives

to achieve the city's target of a 20% reduction in CO2 emissions in the period 2005-2015 alone.

- But Copenhagen is on its way:
- 97% of all households in Copenhagen have district heating. Nearly 50% of the citizens of Copenhagen ride their bike every day. In Copenhagen, the harbour is so clean that you can even swim in it – although it might be too cold just now!
- I also hope you will have an opportunity to glimpse how Copenhagen will become a city filled with climate exhibitions and

activities to engage the citizens and our many guests.

- During the UN Climate Change Conference, City Hall Square in Copenhagen will be transformed into a city of hope; Hopenhagen LIVE.
- Every day, Hopenhagen will be filled with experiences and exhibitions.
- The city's trade mark – a huge, interactive globe – will light up the December darkness, reflecting in ever-changing shades and hues the world's engagement with the climate. On the stage, musicians and speakers will collect the citizens

together around the messages, which hopefully will resonate among the negotiators here in the Bella Center.

- I am very much looking forward to hosting you tonight for the reception at City Hall and on City Hall Square.
- So, I bid you a very warm welcome and sincerely hope you will leave our city with a good impression and many good experiences. But most of all, I hope that when you leave this conference hall, you will leave the planet safer and greener for the future.

- Please help us to turn Copenhagen into Hopenhagen. Please seal the deal!