

**Delivered by H. E. Mr. Traian Basescu, President of Romania**

**Address for the UN Conference of climate changes**  
*Copenhagen, December 17, 2009*

***Madame President,  
Dear heads of State and Government,  
Ladies and gentlemen,***

It is a great honor for me to be in Copenhagen today, on the occasion of the negotiations held upon the agreement that will allow us to act together, after 2012, with a view to protecting the environment. The way we pursue our legitimate aspirations of economic and social development is no longer a matter of exclusivity. The approach of us all, from more or less developed countries, should consider the development needs of the others and, particularly, the needs of the following generations.

Copenhagen concentrates, these days, the attention and hope of billions citizens world over. We have a duty to them: we should not disappoint them and we should demonstrate them that we have a common understanding of the notions of responsibility and solidarity.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

The circumstances that brought us to the negotiation of the Kyoto Protocol, a decade ago, seem to be much more serious now. The climate changes and the environmental degradation threaten the security, the social and economic stability and of our countries. Their effects are most severely felt by the populations of the less developed countries. Our presence here testifies for our common will to contribute, further on, in an authentic global effort, aimed at combating the changes produced by the greenhouse effect emissions and by the irresponsible actions of humans against the environment.

Romania took part in the joint effort of the European Union in this period, a decisive one with a view to ensuring the success of the international negotiations on climate changes. The EU mandate was a catalyst for the international negotiations, according to the principle of „common, but differentiated responsibility”. The principle provides that the industrialized countries have to engage firmly in reducing the emissions and the developing countries have to modify the trajectory of the emissions.

Romania's involvement in the fight against global warming is reflected by the progresses made in the achievement of the Kyoto targets, between 1990 and 2007 and by the current level of the greenhouse emissions, which is 37% below the level we assumed.

We believe that the principles and mechanisms set by the Kyoto Protocol have to be reflected in the post-2012 agreement and we reiterate, to this end, the common decision adopted within the EU, to support the adoption of a cooperation instrument which should be based on its essential elements.

As part of the Kyoto „inheritance”, Romania aims at agreeing upon the AAUs; thus the rules for transactions should be non-discriminative, and using them should not affect the environment agreement. We believe that the accumulation of the AAUs surplus confirms the fact that Romania made significant efforts for reducing the emissions and that we understand to use the units so as to avoid endangering the environment targets.

As for Romania, our main objective is to strengthen the disjunction between the economic growth and the greenhouse emissions. This can be achieved by promoting the alternative energy sources, including the renewable ones, by increasing the energy efficiency and by promoting the geological carbon caption and storage. We also have in view promoting the clean technologies in industry, agriculture, transports, agriculture and waste management.

We will continue to use nuclear energy in civilian purposes and we will continue to pay attention to the use of wind energy. At the same time, we will continue to use the agricultural potential of our country, by establishing a fair balance between the agro-food production and the cultivation of resources for bio-fuel.

Romania has a trump card that we would like to use against the background of the „greening” of the freight transportation. I am referring to the drafting of a European strategy of integrated development in the Danube region and to the unification of the navigation rules on Rhine and Danube, with a view to connecting, economically speaking, the Black Sea to the North Sea.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

We agree that the developing countries cannot overcome, alone, the already important effects of the crisis and cannot engage in the process of reducing the greenhouse emissions without a consistent financial support. Against this background and in spite of the economic difficulties hat they are facing in this period of crisis, Romania engaged, along with the other EU member-states, to support, financially the developing countries.

***Ladies and gentlemen,***

We reached a moment when, due to the efforts of all those involved, we’ve reached an agreement and we’ve proved to the world, through the engagements assumed, that we are have vision, decision power and we can act together to the interest of all. The decision that we have to take, although it is a very difficult one, as we were able to see during the negotiations, is vital for the present, and particularly for the future of our planet.

The challenge that we are facing, which, I am convinced, we will be able to overcome, is that, in les than one year, the Copenhagen consensus has to be reflected in a concrete juridical agreement. Only this way, we will be able to prove that we are responsible for our generation and, particularly, for the future generations.

We are convinced that implementing, in each state, the measures that provide the decrease of the carbon emissions will represent not only a risk management instrument, but also an engine for sustainable economic increase. Romania is prepared to take part in the effort of transforming what now seems a challenge into an opportunity.

Thank you!