

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

Mrs. Nona Karadjova, Minister of environment and Water

**Joint High-level segment of COP and CMP
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Mister President,
Your Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen delegates,

In the last two weeks we heard a diversity of messages made by Negotiators, Ministers and Heads of States. Different environmental, social, economical, financial and regional aspects of the consequences of climate change were pointed out not only here, in Copenhagen, but around the world. Many are the distinctions among us, different is the price we will pay, but what unites us is our common problem. It is our duty, *together and now*, to meet the challenge.

Much has been said inside and outside of the Bella Center. It was spoken with optimism, with hope ... and with a bit of skepticism about the outcome of these negotiations. I am not going to repeat again all that has been said already.

It is completely normal after two years of climate negotiations the expectations to be high, delegates to be impatient and even show mistrust towards each other. More than 190 countries have to find a solution which would meet our diverse national interests while responding to a challenge that has no territorial borders. The process is complex, negotiations – tough and consequences – severe... But we should not forget the long way we have gone, neither the foundations we have set in that direction.

It all started in 1992 in Rio – with the acknowledgement of the challenge of climate change. Five years later we agreed on the Kyoto Protocol, where we took on specific commitments for GHG reductions. These commitments may be did not fulfill the ambitious targets we then had in mind, but it was indeed a giant step forward.

Many skeptics back then did not believe a global agreement was achievable, but it happened. So, this is also possible today!

Seventeen years after Rio we meet again in a unique universal gathering to make the next leap forward. How big should it be – it is up to us. Let us not forget why we are here and who are we doing this for. Let us, when we get back home, be able to say “we have done our best”. Did we really do our best?

After days and nights of negotiations we tend to see the world in numbers and percentages. Climate change is more than numbers, it is about food, resources, drinking water availability, biodiversity loss, preservation of the global ecosystem, international security... in one word – it is about *survival*!

Let us see the world beyond the numbers. Here and now we are deciding on what kind of world we will leave behind us for the generations to come.

Science gives us directions, but we have to do the actions. We can't postpone any longer. The time has come to make the leap. We only need to decide how big it will be.

Each individual effort matters. Developed and developing countries, we all share the same Planet. The carbon emissions are not stopped for a frontier check. We need to recognize that a global problem needs a global solution.

I believe we will take decision here and now! Let's acknowledge the enormous efforts of the COP Presidency to drive this challenging and ambitious process to its final deal. Let's do the leap!

Thank you for your attention.