

UNFCCC COP19 High Level Statement (MALTA)

Minister Leo Brincat (Minister for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change)

21 November 2013

Mr / Madame President, Ministers, Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel particularly honoured to participate at this 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in this beautiful and historical city of Warsaw: a city that has stood strong despite the various challenges it has faced throughout the centuries. I would like to start by thanking the Government and the people of Poland for the impeccable organisation and the formidable hospitality shown to our delegation at this Conference.

Mr / Mme President,

The latest findings of Working Group I of the IPCC, as well as the recent tragedy which struck the Philippines, highlight, more than ever, the **urgent** need for solidarity within the international community to address this global challenge. The principle of Solidarity must manifest itself through our work at this Conference. We must send a clear signal that the international community means business: that we are on track to take the necessary measures to tackle climate change. [I take this opportunity to express the sincere condolences on behalf of the people of the Republic of Malta to the people of the Philippines.]

Mr / Mme President,

This year marks the 25th anniversary since Malta's initiative for a UN General Assembly resolution on the conservation of climate as part of the common concern of mankind. We must commit ourselves to achieve by 2015, a global legally binding agreement, applicable to all, securing good governance for this unprecedented threat facing humankind. There is no more time for procrastination.

Momentum for action is often stalled by immediate concerns related to national or regional events. In actual fact however, it is becoming increasingly clear that, as Commissioner Hedegaard stated on Tuesday, the threats posed by climate change have now moved to the centre of the debate on economic policy.

Human tragedies, such as those related to migration in the Mediterranean this year, will continue to escalate as the impacts of climate change act as a threat multiplier, particularly in the most vulnerable regions. Climate vulnerability spreads beyond latitudes and therefore the global community must provide the necessary actions to ensure climate resilience.

These events motivate us further to work towards achieving an effective global legally binding agreement.

To get there we need an outcome at this Warsaw Conference which sets us on the right track towards the 2015 Agreement. We must establish a process for all Parties to formulate ambitious mitigation commitments, including a timetable to prepare their proposed commitments in 2014.

We must leave Warsaw with the elements for a draft negotiating text, to be available for the Lima Conference. I therefore emphasise the great importance of ensuring progress under the ADP here and in the coming months.

Mr / Mme President

The 2015 agreement must ensure the participation of **all** Parties under the Convention and also include commitments from all. The collective level of ambition should be informed by science and consistent with the below 2°C objective. Responsibilities and capabilities are differentiated but evolve over time. The agreement should therefore reflect these evolving realities by including a spectrum of commitments in a dynamic way.

Mr / Mme President

As a small island state in the Mediterranean, a Member State of the European Union, and an Annex I Party to the Convention, Malta reiterates its commitment to

sustainable development. Malta recognises that the key for climate action is better governance: synergies are created by linking different sectors and actors.

Malta is proud to state that, together with the EU and its Member States, we are already implementing our commitments under the second commitment period to the Kyoto Protocol as of 1 January 2013.

Following the adoption of its national mitigation and adaptation strategies, Malta is fully committed to shifting to cleaner sources of energy. Malta is also currently preparing a national Green Economy Strategy with a view to creating an enabling environment that promotes the transition towards a more resource efficient and low carbon economy. These efforts have been inspired by the value of mainstreaming climate change policy and action in all sectors of economic and social policy.

As we share our national experiences, whatever the scale, we are committed to continuing to build global and regional capacity for climate action.

Mr / Mme President,

The Warsaw Conference is an opportunity we cannot afford to miss. We must all apply our best efforts to achieve a positive outcome. This will help us, here and now, to determine the future we make for ourselves and for generations to come.