

**Statement of H.E. Ms. Blanka Fajkusová,
Ambassador of the Czech Republic in South Africa,
at the COP-17/CMP-7, Durban, South Africa, 8th December 2011**

Ms. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Firstly let me express my highest gratitude to the Government and People of South Africa and in particular to His Excellency President **Jacob Zuma** and Her Excellency President of the Conference of the Parties **Maite Nkoana Mashabane**, for hosting such a significant conference. We highly appreciate the enormous efforts by South Africa given to this important milestone in climate negotiation process. I would like to associate with the statements made by the EU Presidency and the European Commission.

The Czech Republic seeks a new **comprehensive and legally binding international agreement** to be reached as soon as possible, but no later than in 2015. Therefore a successful outcome from Durban and full involvement of all Parties including all the major economies is absolutely inevitable for our effort to keep the global temperature increase below 2 degree Celsius.

From the Kyoto Protocol perspective the Parties objective is to avoid the gap and secure the common-rule based system. **The Czech Republic is ready to be a part of the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol**, while strong link and future convergence with the Convention track must be reached. The second commitment period will approximately cover only 16 % of the global emissions. Thus, the Kyoto Protocol itself cannot address the growing trends in global greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, our main objective under the Convention is to develop an effective and inclusive global framework, which will cover at least 90 % of global emissions. As it has been stressed by recent studies published by the International Energy Agency or the UNEP any delay in global action may cause that stabilization of emissions will be even more difficult compared to nowadays.

From the perspective of the Czech Republic, **it is important that Durban delivers strong structure for the Green Climate Fund**. The Fund should be fully in place in 2012 in order to help with implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions in all countries and especially the poorest developing countries including Africa.

On the national level, the Czech Republic, as part of the European Union, is on the way to fulfil its commitments under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol.

Currently our greenhouse gas emission level is below **33 % compared to the 1990 levels**. We are ready to continue with new and additional policies and measures in order to perform our mitigation commitment within the EU climate and energy package by 2020. We are also preparing a new climate policy including the adaptation strategy which should be approved by the Czech government in 2012. The government has already supported the programme for innovations in energy production and distribution. Another domestic programme Green Light for Savings aimed at energy savings in housing sector is planned to be prolonged.

As regards the fast-start financing, the Czech Republic has pledged **12 million EUR which are being provided to developing countries** through bilateral and multilateral channels mainly for adaptation, mitigation and capacity building.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my final remarks, let me say that I highly appreciate the tireless work of all the experts and negotiators. However, now they have reached their limits and it is the responsibility of ministers to give a **clear and strong guidance** to bring this process to its successful outcome. **We have to work even harder and agree on the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and the roadmap under the Convention track, which should lead us towards a legally binding framework** to be adopted not later than the end of 2015.

The outcome of Durban might not satisfy all, however without any outcome our chances to sustainable future are very limited with serious impacts on the humankind and nature.

Thank you for your attention.