

**Statement by Mr. Ville Niinistö, Minister of the Environment of  
Finland**

**at the 18<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the UN Framework  
Convention on Climate Change and CMP8 of the Kyoto  
Protocol**

**5 December 2012, Doha, Qatar**

**Distinguished Mr. President, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and  
Gentlemen**

I would like to start by thanking our hosts here in Qatar for their hospitality and the excellent facilities they have provided us.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

We have to act fast. We are all in this together. The latest research shows that the global temperature could rise even four degrees by 2080, if the global community continues with its current commitments and policies. Increased efforts and strengthened cooperation are urgently needed, otherwise we are faced with floods, aridity and other extreme weather events, that will endanger the vital functions of our societies. If we don't take the necessary measures now, we will face even more severe consequences later. Furthermore, besides political will, we need to find new and innovative solutions, which could reduce emissions significantly

now. We all know this. Action is needed to create sustainable societies and to protect livelihoods.

Adequate and increased financial support for climate action in developing countries, in a balanced way for both mitigation and adaptation, is a crucial part of our overall objectives. One of the key measures to start approaching the one hundred billion goal by 2020 is to proceed with the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund. Therefore Finland has made a voluntary contribution to support the start-up phase of the Fund. We are also on track to meet our fast start finance commitment of 110 million euros, which is new climate financing compared to our baseline in 2009. In the next couple of years we intend to maintain our overall climate financing on average at least at the level of the fast start period. We explore options for further increasing it.

### **Mr. President**

In Doha we have to make progress on immediately and adequately addressing climate change. Firstly, we are entering into the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Secondly, we have started the process towards the new climate agreement which will take effect from 2020 onwards.



Finland considers the Kyoto Protocol as an essential element and building block when creating the new legally binding agreement applicable to all countries. The Kyoto Protocol flexibility mechanisms especially have been successful in engaging large number of actors outside governments and in mobilizing substantial amounts of financial and technical support for climate mitigation actions in developing countries. Therefore we strongly urge all Kyoto Parties to make the second commitment period of the Protocol operational immediately beginning of the next year and to do their utmost to initiate the ratification process as early as possible.

In Durban, we decided to start negotiations on a new global climate agreement. In Doha, we have had constructive discussions in both workstreams. The Durban platform has to be, finally, the solution to address climate change as a whole world community. We have to address the ambition gap between our joint efforts and scientific reality. The future agreement should have commitments from all countries and especially from the major economies relative to their capacities and promoting green economy.

**Mr. President, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I underline – it is essential to bridge the gap between the commitments by different countries and the actions needed to

mitigate climate change. We need to raise the level of ambition already before 2020. Parties which have not yet made commitments for 2020 should do it immediately.

Policies and technologies exist in order to revitalize our one and only planet and secure the future of mankind. They just need to be put in place.