

**UNFCCC - COP17 / CMP7 (Durban)****Minister Pullicino's Statement for High-Level Segment**

Madame President, Distinguished colleagues,

I would like to start by thanking the Government and people of South Africa for the wonderful organisation of this Conference and for their warm and generous hospitality. We have come here to the city of Durban optimistic that a balanced outcome aimed at achieving a global and comprehensive legally-binding framework regime under this Convention **is possible**. We are optimistic because the Agreements reached last year in Cancun signalled a start of a new era in the international climate change regime.

Malta fully supports the European Union's commitment towards a Second Commitment Period to the Kyoto Protocol, but we must be clear that this is conditional on achieving concrete progress here in Durban. We insist for improvement of the Kyoto Protocol's rules so as to maintain a high level of environmental integrity. We must also reach agreement on a Roadmap under the Convention, leading to a global and comprehensive legally-binding framework, which



will include commitments from all Parties, in accordance with their respective capabilities.

Malta retains the perspective of a small island state in the Mediterranean. We therefore have a natural empathy for the concerns of other island countries. It was these vulnerabilities which stimulated Malta's proposal in 1988 for a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly that resulted in the adoption of this Convention. This initiative aimed at a goal which is ever more urgent today: the long-term survival of the planet. This resolution also had a moral imperative: the duty of present generations to protect what is entrusted to us, for future generations to enjoy. These goals should remain our driving force in these discussions.

Madame President,

Malta continues to play an active role in international efforts to address climate change. Malta's membership in the European Union has endowed it with a policy and legal framework that requires a multi-disciplinary approach when dealing with climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Malta has honoured in full its fast-start finance pledge for the year 2011. The funds have been disbursed towards mitigation and adaptation projects in Africa including Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and Ghana. These projects include the installation of renewable energy plants as well as access to clean water.

Malta has, through these projects, understood further that the Green Climate Fund can serve as a more effective and reliable means to address climate change financing in developing countries. Malta therefore stresses that it is imperative to reach an agreement here in Durban to operationalise this Fund.

Madame President,

Apart from our commitment to provide financial assistance to vulnerable Parties, Malta has also worked towards achieving its mitigation commitments taken in the context of the European Union's Climate Change and Energy Package. We have undertaken a substantial investment project to shift to more efficient local electricity generation. Malta is also currently investing in an Interconnector project consisting of a high-voltage



AC 200 MW submarine cable linking Malta to the European network. This project shall be completed in 2013. Through this investment, Malta will be able to purchase energy from larger energy installations with better economies of scale. These projects, together with the closure of an old Power Station will help substantially reduce our electricity generation emissions.

Not without difficulty, Malta has embarked on an ambitious programme to include a renewable energy mix. In recent years the Maltese Government has undertaken several national initiatives to sensitise members of the public to invest in renewable sources of energy. As part of the implementation of our National Mitigation Strategy, we have enabled thousands of families to benefit from grants for the purchase of solar water heaters and photovoltaic systems for domestic use. Industry has also been granted aid to invest in solar energy generation.

Notwithstanding the constraints of a densely populated island we plan to reach 10% of all the energy consumption from this renewable energy mix by the year 2020, with about 4% coming from wind, and 2.5% coming from waste. It has been our



experience that setting specific targets for reducing emissions ensures accountability towards future generations.

Madame President,

Due to Malta's geophysical characteristics, water is a scarce resource resulting in intense pressures on existing supply. Desalination contributes to around 55% of the potable water supply in Malta. Various projects undertaken in Malta in recent years have reduced by almost half the share of electricity consumed by this energy intensive process.

This year the Maltese Government has also invested in overhauling the public transport system with a view to reducing private vehicle use and thus cutting down on emissions.

I must stress that Malta is itself particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and that therefore we emphasise the importance of the implementation of adaptation measures. I would therefore like to announce today the finalisation of Malta's National Adaptation Strategy which seeks to address those areas which are most likely to be affected by climate change.



Madame President,

Malta believes that concerted action is crucial to enable the pursuit of the internationally recognised environmental objective of remaining below an average global temperature increase of 2°C. Following announcements by Annex I Parties, it appears that a Second Commitment Period under the Kyoto Protocol is unlikely to cover more than 16% of global emissions; this is clearly insufficient to keep the increase of global temperature below the 2 degree target. As Commissioner Hedegaard stated yesterday: *"A future regime needs to reflect the reality of the new century and the reality is that industrialised countries back in 1992 account for a rapidly decreasing share of emissions,"* this reality cannot be ignored.

In conclusion Madame President, distinguished colleagues, Malta is determined to play its part on both a national and international level to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. We believe that Durban should provide another important step forward in the right direction towards a global and comprehensive framework for the climate change regime in line with the agreed 2 degree objective. I therefore urge all colleagues to work in the

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spirit of compromise towards a successful outcome this week: A solution is not only possible but also attainable.