

Statement

of the head of delegation of the Republic of Armenia at the 23th session of the Conference of the Parties of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 13th Conference of the Parties serving as the Conference of the Parties of the Kyoto Protocol and 2nd part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

Bonn, Germany 16 November, 2017

Mr. Chairman,

Excellences,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me express my gratitude to the Government of Germany for hosting and the excellent organization of the Climate Conference, and Fiji Presidency for leadership.

From the date of entering into force of the Paris Agreement only one year has passed, however we are witnessing unprecedented interest to climate change issues in our society.

We need to make sure that the rules we are going to adopt foster the implementation of the Agreement in the most ambitious manner, at the same time taking into full consideration the corresponding needs and capacities of the Parties.

In that context the upcoming 2018 sets number of deadlines for Countries-Parties to the Paris Agreement to deliver well balanced, detailed, measurable and transparent action plans for implementation of contributions defined in Intended Nationally Determined Contributions.

Armenia, as a landlocked developing country needs to have clear guidance on appropriate modalities, means of technical, technological and financial support for undertaking substantial amount of work domestically for early start of actions in adaptation and mitigation as stated under NDCs.

Armenia, remaining committed to low-carbon development strategy, following its quantified commitments for limitation of the growth of greenhouse gases is undertaking tangible steps to increase the share of renewable energy use, and reduction of carbon intensity of the GDP.

Moreover, Armenia ratified the Doha amendment to Kyoto Protocol, as we consider that we have to nurture the result based financing mechanisms for supporting mitigation actions.

Our main aim is to offer our citizens not only clean, secure but also affordable energy, and we recognize that it can be achieved if domestic efforts would be complemented with international cooperation mechanisms under the Convention.

However, Armenia as the other landlocked mountainous countries with scarce natural resources is facing adverse impacts of the climate change in different sectors of the economy. The average annual temperature has increased by 1,23 degrees Celsius, which means that we need to enhance adaptive capacity for ensuring sustainable future.

In addition, the aridization of climate is posing challenge to key important sector of economy - agriculture, which ensures employment for more than 45% of population. We trust that agriculture adaptation support mechanisms will be duly considered in upcoming decisions under the Paris Agreement.

Furthermore, Armenia has set ambitious target for forestry sector - to double by 2050 the current forest cover of the country. To achieve this goal, Armenia is trying to combine several financial and partnership instruments including green private investments, Debt for Nature Swap and REDD+.

One of the successful examples on our implementation path is the world's first National SDG Innovation Lab that was opened on November 14, 2017.

Mr. Chairman

For the delegation of Azerbaijan I would like to recall that the Republic of Artsakh /Nagorno Karabakh Republic/ has gained its Independence within the same legal framework as Azerbaijan did. Therefore, if Azerbaijan is sincerely concerned about the climate and environmental issues and would like to find solution to those problems, they should engage in genuine talks with the Government of the Artsakh Republic, instead of abusing each and every forum with false accusations, distortion of facts and history and anti-Armenian propaganda. In this regard, I would like to recall the readiness of the Government of Artsakh, expressed on numerous occasions to cooperate on such issues.

Excellences,

The Government of the Republic of Armenia emphasizes the importance of the integration of economic, climate and environmental policies and strategies, and states that green investments are necessary not only from environmental point of view but at the same time are profitable and economically efficient.

Thank you for your attention.