

Ireland National Statement - COP25 - 11 December 2019 – Minister Richard Bruton

Thank you, Madam President.

Let me begin by confirming Ireland's support for the statements made on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

I would also like to congratulate and commend both the Chilean COP Presidency and the Spanish Government for their excellent management of COP25.

Ireland has listened to the scientific community - as an island nation with a rich agricultural tradition, we welcome the IPCC Special Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere and the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land.

Through the publication of Ireland's Climate Action Plan in June this year, Ireland sets out over 180 actions required to deliver our 2030 targets, embracing every relevant sector and puts Ireland on the trajectory towards net zero emissions by 2050. It is founded upon the relevant science and technical advice and is supported by a robust governance framework with reporting on a quarterly basis. This continual accountability will ensure a focused momentum to deliver and achieve our commitments.

Ireland is also preparing new climate legislation which will be published next year and which will include a 2050 emissions reduction target that is consistent with our support for a carbon neutral Europe by 2050. In line with this vision, I am pleased to announce that Ireland has joined the Carbon Neutrality Coalition, further underlining our commitment to develop a long-term strategy for Ireland that supports the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

Legislating our long term goal will ensure we safeguard the future for the next generation. The demand of our young people has strengthened the fight against climate change and I have listened to their calls to act. Ireland recognises the importance of supporting young people's voices in these discussions and I am proud that Ireland co-sponsored the Kwon Gesh pledge at the UN Climate Action Summit and that we are supporting the participation of young people as part of our national delegation at this COP.

Ireland has taken steps to ban exploration for oil, committed to a carbon tax of €80 per tonne by 2030 and have put in place dedicated supports to provide for a just transition for communities affected by the ending of peat-fired power generation. This will be supported by a commitment to ring-fence all additional revenue raised from our carbon tax from 2020 onwards.

Supporting climate action, and in particular adaptation, in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States is also a key pillar of Ireland's climate action. This reflects our commitment to reaching the furthest behind first, especially those who are disproportionately affected by climate impacts, and least equipped to cope. I am pleased to announce therefore that Ireland is doubling our funding to the Green Climate Fund for its first formal replenishment period from 2020 to 2023. In addition, Ireland has already surpassed our commitment made in 2015 to provide €175 million in public funding on climate action in developing countries over the period 2016 to 2020, providing almost €200 million in such funding over the period 2016 to 2018 alone.

We must work together against climate change with ambition and realism. We must strive for agreement on the remaining aspects of the Paris Agreement rulebook. This is an obligation which Ireland is committed to and the time to act is now.