

STATEMENT
by H.E. Mr. Tomáš Chalupa
Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic

at the 18th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change and at the 8th session of the
Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto
Protocol, Doha, 5th December 2012

Mr. President, Excellences, distinguished delegates,

Firstly let me express my highest gratitude to the Government and People of Qatar and in particular to His Excellency **Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani** and His Excellency President of the Conference of the Parties **Abdullah bin Hamad Al-Attiah**, for hosting this important event. We highly appreciate the high level of commitment and great efforts of Qatar during the whole climate negotiation process. I would like to support the position presented by the EU Presidency and add some comments.

The continuation of the Kyoto Protocol is one of the major issues of the climate negotiations in 2012. **The Czech Republic is going to take**

part in the second commitment period. Nevertheless, we expected that also other states will join us. It looks that the second commitment period will cover less than 15 % of the global greenhouse gas emissions. Having this in mind, we have to openly say that the 2 degree target is currently beyond our reach.

It is necessary that a new legally binding agreement is adopted by 2015 in order to enter into force in 2020. No later. It should cover all major economies and emitters, including both from developed and developing countries. Without a new agreement, a protocol, with a broad coverage and involvement of all parties the global effort will be fragmented and will not be sufficient to really change the current growing trends of greenhouse gas emission levels.

The Czech Republic fulfils its commitments under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. The achievement of significant decrease in emissions since 1990 required domestically huge amount of resources and it was challenging for our social and economic

conditions including competitiveness. We strived to shift our economy on that pathway and we believe it could work.

However, the limited number of states wishing to join or seriously contribute to reverting of the growing greenhouse gas trends does not look satisfactory. We have to take into consideration that due to the lack of the global agreement it is much more difficult to explain any new targets and commitments to our tax payers. If the second Kyoto still covers only less than 15 % of global greenhouse gases, how to ensure the overall effort and integrity if about 80 % of global greenhouse gas emissions is not covered by international mitigation objectives in order to stop their growth?

Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I highly appreciate the tireless work of all experts and negotiators taking part in the negotiations. However, at this point of time we - the representatives of states - have to **say clearly YES or NO. We**

have to focus on adopting the Second Commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, close the work of those temporary bodies that have already reached their limits and intensify the process that will lead us to a legally binding framework for all countries. And we have no more than three years to achieve this goal otherwise we would need to frankly admit that we the Parties failed to deliver.

The Czech Republic has chosen to undertake the low carbon development pathway. It is challenging and requires a careful consideration of all pros and cons. Based on these analyses, which we have done we came to the conclusion that the price we pay is acceptable. But I am convinced that our contribution will be meaningful only when we will not be alone.

Thank you for your attention.