

**UN Climate Change Conference 2012  
Doha/Katar**

Statement by

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Management

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Mr/Mrs [Vice-]President  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

The Doha climate conference marks an **important moment** for all of us in our collective task to combat climate change.

Yet another year has brought **record temperatures** across the globe. The rise in carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere is getting steeper and steeper. The same with sea level rise: It is continuing at an alarming rate – recent studies suggest it is far greater than previously thought. And extreme weather events in 2012 have caused devastation and the loss of life throughout the world and causing tremendous costs. Austria has also experienced record devastations caused by heavy rainfalls and landslides this summer as well as record heights in October temperatures.

**It is clear that we must act decisively to combat climate change. And it is clear that we must act here and now.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we gather here in Doha, we have **a unique opportunity** to take an important first step towards a new global regime to protect the earth's climate. We must bring the two workstreams under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol a close, and from next year on redouble our collective efforts under the Durban Platform, the process we successfully launched last year.

In this context, I want to be clear that the **EU is ready to enter into a second commitment period** under the Kyoto Protocol here in Doha. **We are ready to act.** But we must see action under Kyoto in a larger context of meeting our common 2 degrees objective.

Emission reduction commitments under Kyoto capture about 15 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. About 85 percent still remain outside of a legally-binding regime. Kyoto can only be **one part** of a successful outcome here at COP 18.

We need a clear plan for our collective work ahead – it is time to agree on **an ambitious workplan** for the ADP with specific work items and milestones for next year and beyond.

We also know that **developing countries** will need continued **support** for their mitigation and adaptation efforts. Austria has provided support for projects with our partner countries and we will continue to do so.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are gathering here in Qatar, in the heart of a region that is **abundant in energy** – rich not only in fossil fuels, but also in renewables. Solar energy offers great opportunities for



many regions in the world, but this is particularly true for the Arabian Peninsula. Other world regions have great potential in wind. My own country, Austria, has great potential in all forms of renewable energy, in particular hydropower and biomass use.

It is time for us to invest in these potentials and to begin the **transition from fossil fuels towards renewables** in earnest. My goal for Austria is: Energy autarky by 2050, which means that per saldo we will produce the same amount of energy as we consume. This also means to reduce the use of fossil fuels to an absolute minimum. Regions that are rich in renewables today will remain rich in the future. It can be achieved.

Renewables, by definition, cannot be depleted. They are key for sustainable development and sustained prosperity for all regions in the world. But not only are renewables a key to prosperity for us all, they are also a central part of the solution to climate change. We will present facts, best practices and opportunities on sustainable energy at an Austrian side event tomorrow and I hope you will join us.

In closing, let me highlight that - while the threat of climate change is daunting - I see a great opportunity. We need to rapidly change our energy systems, this will benefit the environment, but also the economy and it will create new and green jobs.

Green growth brings together economy and ecology which can and should go hand in hand. Energy may be part of the challenge, but it is also an integral part of the solution. And that gives me reason for hope.

I wish all of us a successful outcome in the negotiations here in Doha.

Vielen Dank! Thank you!