

**Proposta de intervenção no segmento de Alto-Nível da 23^a
Conferência das Partes à Convenção das Nações Unidas para as
Alterações Climáticas**

Bona, 16 de novembro de 2017

Mr. President,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to start by thanking the Presidency of Fiji, recognising the importance of having for the first time a Small Island State assuming the Presidency of the COP. I would also like to welcome the principles and the spirit of “Talanoa” that the Fiji leadership has been implementing in COP 23.

Let me also congratulate the German Authorities on organising this COP and successfully welcoming all Parties, thus contributing to the global effort to fight climate change.

Mr. President,

Portugal aligns itself with the intervention of the EU and its 28 Member States. We continue to be fully committed to the international negotiations to fight climate change.

Climate change is one of the greatest global challenges that Humanity is facing nowadays. Our collective responsibility to look after our Planet and future

generations demand truly global responses. Our actions must be guided by a real sense of urgency and the need for higher ambition from all of us while implementing the Paris Agreement.

Dear Colleagues,

Allow me to welcome once again the swift ratification of the Paris Agreement by the remarkable number of 170 Parties so far. This engagement without precedent reaffirms our commitment to provide the necessary collective answer to the challenges that we are all facing.

Portugal considers that the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement work program to 2018 for the definition of the Rule Book, as agreed in Marrakesh, is a fundamental milestone for the operationalisation and fulfilment of the Paris Agreement objectives.

We place great hope in the model planned for the Talanoa Dialogue in 2018, which will be a key opportunity to emphasize the progress achieved and to leverage the concrete actions showing reinforced engagement and ambition for climate action.

We also recognise the essential role of civil society under the framework of the Global Agenda for Climate Action emphasising its broader commitment and the diversity of solutions and initiatives that are already being implemented.

Mr. President

In Marrakesh, Portugal assumed the objective to be carbon neutral by 2050.

To implement this objective, we launched, last October, the Carbon Neutrality Roadmap for 2050, initiating a procedure that we intend to be participated by the society. This Roadmap, to be adopted during 2019, will establish the path and the measures to achieve that objective.

There is no economic growth or reduction of inequalities without long term policies on carbon neutrality. We believe that this is possible and we are committed to finding the right answers to make it a reality.

This is the pathway that we want to follow, a pathway that requires making choices and, in some cases, creating disruptions with the past, leaving behind development models based on fossil fuels and to go clearly for renewable energies, energy efficiency, electric mobility, circular economy, the promotion of sustainable forests, that strengthens carbon capture and farming practices in line with this objective.

Dear Colleagues,

Portugal is a country with a convincing track record on climate change policy and action.

We have overachieved our objectives under the Kyoto Protocol, and we are in line to meet the 2020 commitments for emissions reduction, energy efficiency and promotion of renewable energies. We have established ambitious 2030 targets: reduce GHG emissions between 30 to 40 %, on compared to 2005; reach 40% of renewable energy and 30% of energy efficiency.

Furthermore, I am pleased to announce that we will proceed with the deposition of the instrument of ratification of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol, thus concluding the ratification process and we have already started the necessary procedures towards the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which we intend to conclude in early 2018.

Since 2005 Portugal has been on a downward trend in terms of the carbon intensity of our GDP. Today we have a wealthier economy with less emissions but we want to go further. We need new ways of planning, producing and consuming. Over half of worldwide greenhouse gases emissions are associated with producing basic materials. Two thirds of environmental damage costs are related to unefficient use of materials and only one third to energy. A circular economy model, that maintain resources at their highest economic value and where consumers become producers, is key to achieve Paris targets.

However, Portugal, along with many other nations present here, is already experiencing strong impacts related to the effects of climate change. This summer, the fires that have ravaged our forests, exacerbated by severe weather conditions and a year of extreme drought throughout the country, had an unprecedented human, environmental and material impact.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the costs of inaction are high and that if we exceed the identified thresholds, the effects of climate change may even be beyond our ability to adapt, with implications for the functioning of ecosystems, the economy and the society as we know it. It is therefore of the utmost importance to assume adaptation as a key priority.

In this context, I would also like to mention the support that must be provided to those countries which are the most vulnerable and have less response capacity, which are at the same time most exposed to the adverse effects of climate change.

Portugal has mobilized resources to support, in particular, the Portuguese-Speaking African Countries in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, and has been funding cooperation projects in the areas of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, having committed a total amount of 10 million euros by the year 2020.

The road to carbon neutrality is also the path to innovation and knowledge, to qualification and training, to environmental and demographic sustainability. A people-focused path.

To this end, it is essential to reaffirm decarbonisation and adaptation to climate change as an investment priority, refocusing public and private financing in this direction.

We are all called upon to build greater ambition for the Paris Agreement. We are also aware that to achieve results, political leadership and concerted action are essential.

This is the spirit in which Portugal became a founding member of the Transport Decarbonisation Alliance, together with France, the Netherlands and Costa Rica. We believe that mechanisms that set carbon prices are essential tools to promote the change towards decarbonisation, which is why Portugal implements a carbon tax in sectors not covered by the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme. In

this context we are a founding member of the International Carbon Action Partnership and we have recently joined the Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition.

Today, Portugal will also join the 2050 Pathways Platform, which is a forum of various stakeholders who, like Portugal, are committed to establishing long term low carbon strategies, because climate action should be sustained through a medium/long term vision.

As recently stated by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, “now we have yet an even greater challenge: to raise our ambition and keep a steady course”.

Thank you!