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Madam President!
Ladies and gentlemen!

UKRAINE

First and foremost I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizers of the conference and especially to the people and Government of Mexico for hosting the meeting of this level in this beautiful city, the very atmosphere of which is conductive to taking historic decisions on the prevention of anthropogenic climate change on our planet.

Recognizing that climate change is one of the major problems of today, Ukraine supports the efforts of the international community aimed at limiting and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and in practice has proved the viability of the ideas of the Kyoto Protocol.

Ukraine fully ensured the creation of the necessary legal framework and a network of state institutions for implementation of an integrated national policy on prevention of human influence on climate.

Ukraine was among the first countries to create a state agency responsible for the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, namely the National Environmental Investment Agency of Ukraine.

As a Party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol, Ukraine is fulfilling its commitments, actively participates in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through such "flexibility" mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol as joint implementation and emissions trading under the Green Investment Scheme.

Furthermore, Ukraine is leading in the list of countries undertaking Joint Implementation projects. As a proof to this is the fact that about 40% of carbon emission reductions for joint implementation projects today are of Ukrainian origin.

In addition, Ukraine began implementing projects under the Green Investment Scheme. About 550 such projects have already been registered and are ready for implementation. Ukraine has made every effort to ensure successful cooperation with the Governments of Japan and Spain. Already in January 2011, some of the projects supported with the GIS funds will be operational.

Ukraine is prepared to undertake obligations within the framework of a comprehensive legally binding agreement, containing specific emission reduction obligations of Parties.

Ukraine supports setting quantified emission reduction obligations for the Parties in the period of up to 2020, establishing obligations for monitoring, reporting and verification, preservation of 1990 as the base year, and continuation of the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol.

The timeline of the new agreement should not be limited to 2020, it is important to have a clearly identified roadmap for its operation in the longer term - up to 2050 and beyond.

In addition, Ukraine underscores the important role that forests play in absorbing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the human influence on climate and calls for a mechanism that would ensure due consideration of the role of forests in fulfillment of the obligations of the Parties.

At the same time, we are convinced that the special status of Ukraine as a country with economy in transition, as reflected in both the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, should be retained in the new agreement.

Dear Colleagues, Ukraine fully realizes the urgency of adapting the national economy and the national regulatory system to the internationally recognized principles of tackling climate change. Our country has made significant advancements in this direction and does not intend to slow down the pace in the foreseeable future.

Our country has initiated the process of creating a domestic carbon market as a powerful market tool for reducing emissions with a demonstrated effectiveness. Ukraine is currently drafting legislation in this area and a key bill has already passed its first reading in Parliament. Its adoption will accelerate the launch of the domestic market for emissions trading in Ukraine and in the long term will enable linking with the markets of other states and regions.

We hope for fruitful discussions among the Parties and elaboration of a single document, which will take into account the positions of all parties, and invite all interested countries to take responsibility now and make every effort to reach consensus.

Thank you for your attention.