Plenary statement of H.E. Mr. Norbert Röttgen, German Minister of the Environment, Nature Conservation und Nuclear Safety,

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Climate protection as an opportunity

Thank you Chair,

Excellencies,

Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Climate protection means economic opportunity and the capability of the international community to act!

1. In Germany there has been a shift in thinking over the past years: in industry, politics and society we now see climate policy as an opportunity and challenge, not as a threat. Our strategy of investing in renewable energies and energy efficiency has proven successful, even in times of economic and financial crisis. Germany's economy has come out of the crisis even stronger than before. This is partly due to our strength in exporting modern energy and environmental technologies, where we have up to 30 percent of the world market share. And this share is rising.

In this regard, one thing is particularly important for our economy: long-term, stable framework conditions. We have created these with our recently adopted Energy Concept, which lays the foundations for the long-term transformation of our economy up to 2050. Accordingly, we will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2020 and, with interim steps, by 80 to 95% by 2050 compared with 1990 levels - without any conditions. If we implement our targets efficiently, by 2020 we will have created up to 500,000 new jobs, and we will have achieved savings of over 20 billion Euros in energy imports.

Why am I telling you this? Because when we talk about fighting climate change, we are always also talking about economic growth and development. So the transformation is actually a growth strategy.

2. There is a second important message: Here in Cancun we need to prove that we are resolved and capable of acting multilaterally. And we need to do so, because climate change can only be addressed together. For me this means:

When acting together in a spirit of solidarity we can achieve more ambitious results. Many developing countries need support both for economic restructuring and for adapting to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. For this purpose we are providing a total of 1.26 billion Euros in fast-start financing for the years 2010 to 2012. Moreover Germany has decided to use 100% of our revenues from the auctioning of emission trading certificates for

climate protection from 2013 onwards. A substantial part of these resources will be earmarked for international climate financing.

Robust international rules will increase the stability, effectiveness and credibility of our actions. The UN is the forum where such rules should be agreed upon. Only here such diverse aspects as mitigation, adaptation, technology transfer and the fight against the destruction of forests can be addressed in a comprehensive, ambitious climate architecture.

We need a stepwise approach. The mitigation pledges on the table now must be made more transparent and need to be secured in a binding form. In a second step opportunities need to be explored to step up these mitigation commitments and actions in order to keep the 2°C target achievable in the medium term.

Excellencies, Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

I am confident, that, here in Cancun, we will inject new momentum to this process and prove that we are still capable of acting jointly for the benefit of all.