Statement by H.E. Mr. László Borbély,

Minister of Environment and Forests of Romania

Madame President,

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We come along an year after Copenhagen, which was expected to be the tipping point of the climate regime. That moment has been judged afterwards, with too much criticism, as being rather a wishful thinking moment. But beside the drawbacks, Copenhagen remains a moment of truth in acknowledging and understanding the real dimension posed by the negative effects of climate change. Either we speak about floods, draught or desertification, strong storms or forest fires, climate change increasingly affects our lives

We hope that the Cancun Conference will deliver a strong support to communities all over the world in dealing this challenge. We are all expecting an intermediate, but significant step forward to be made here. We need to show the willingness for building on the Kyoto Protocol and pave the way towards a global and comprehensive, legally binding framework, by integrating all along the consistent guidance given by the Copenhagen Accord.

Therefore, making use of what we experienced as beneficial is the straight way to deliver a balanced approach in this process.

Recalling the need of openness, we should bear in mind that eight years lasted for the Kyoto Protocol to enter into force. Thus, we would like to emphasize that continuity in this process is essential. At the same time we must require all major economies to assume without delay meaningful binding commitments, in order to comply with the requirements of the global scale approach. And the essential milestones for these requirements remain the 2 degrees threshold, and the emission reduction objectives.

As for addressing another sensitive and essential issue, namely the surplus and carry-over of Kyoto units, the solution should take into consideration all aspects: acknowledge the compliance efforts of the Parties in respecting the KP provisions, assure fairness for all Parties, and correctly asses the economic, financial and social consequences of reducing emissions in the respective Parties.

For achieving mitigation objective in a cost-efficient manner, we believe the carbon market is an essential tool. The transformation of our economies and societies to use less carbon and be more energy efficient is by itself a way to enhance economic growth and everybody's wellbeing.

Romania is still facing the avatars of the global economic crisis. Even so, Romania continues to stand by the European Union commitments in supporting the developing countries efforts through the fast start financing mechanism. The support delivered through financing the needs and progresses of the developing countries multiplies its effect, by giving the priceless value of the entire process: the confidence between the Parties.

Alongside balance and flexibility, confidence remains the key word for success. We have to balance our expectations, however bearing in mind every minute that the world is looking for answers. And we have to carry home not only the gratitude for our Mexican hosts, but a positive achievement of these negotiations as well, while allowing the others to do the same.