38

- Check against delivery –

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

NIKOLA RUŽINSKI, PhD, State Secretary

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION

Cancun, Mexico, 29 November to 10 December 2010

Madame President, Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, it is my great pleasure and honor to convey our warmest thanks to the Government and the people of Mexico, for hosting these prominent Conferences in their beautiful country.

The Republic of Croatia aligns itself with the earlier statement made by Belgium on behalf of the European Union.

Madame President,

Croatia firmly believes in the post-Kyoto process, as a significant step towards a global policy on greenhouse gasses emission reduction, which should be further advanced on the basis of important lessons learnt at all levels to date.

Therefore, I would like to underscore that Croatia welcomes and fully supports the adoption of an international legally binding document, as validation of all our efforts in the struggle against the adverse impacts of human activities on climate, as well as, of our efforts to stop global warming.

Madame President,

We have gathered in Cancun in an effort to bring about progress with regard to post-Kyoto arrangements, fully aware of all the challenges being faced and divergent views held by developed and developing countries. Therefore, we are of the opinion that an agreement on the establishment of a special fund for assisting developing countries in achieving future post-Kyoto targets, would represent a significant advance in the negotiations, to the benefit of us all.

It is our firm belief that the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions is only a medium-term challenge, while the long-term solution lies precisely in alternative, „green technologies". In this respect, developed countries should share their expertise in this area with the rest of the world.

As a small state, Croatia is aware of its limitations and of the necessity to ensure adequate negotiation capacities. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance for countries like ours, that the process is transparent and analytically clear, taking into account relevant differences with regard to economic circumstances, energy profiles, development capabilities, aspirations and social conditions. Furthermore, it is important to allow the resolution of a country's special circumstances, with individual treatment if necessary.

Madame President,

In facing today's climate change challenges, Croatia views national commitments as crucial.

Therefore, any agreement reached in Cancun together with the adoption of a globally binding accord hopefully in South Africa next year, should not be viewed as a burden, but rather as a challenge in terms of technological development. At the same time, we should keep in mind the sustainable development aspirations of all countries in the world. To this end, in the joint combat against increased global warming, it is of utmost importance that all countries – both developed and developing – accept the introduction of new, more efficient, environmentally friendly technologies. Croatia strongly believes that the only way to solve global warming issues is to invest in development as opposed to impeding it. Such an approach can revitalize economies, slow down environmental degradation, and ensure a safe environment for future generations to come.

Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

With an important responsibility to ensure the people of Croatia a sound foundation for their sustainable development, Croatia will constructively contribute to the work of these Conferences, with the aim of achieving a successful Kyoto Protocol as well as important progress in the negotiations towards a future commitment period.

Thank you.