8

REPUBBLIKA TA' MALTA REPUBLIC OF MALTA

UNFCCC - COP16 (Cancun)

Minister Pullicino's Statement during High-Level Segment

Madame President,

I would like to start by thanking you and the Mexican Government for your warm hospitality and impeccable organisation since our arrival at this beautiful venue here in Cancun.

Distinguished colleagues,

We are here in Cancun to address the challenge posed by climate change, which is among the most urgent and important to have ever faced humanity. It affects *all* of our countries, but hits hardest the poorer and more vulnerable people and nations that are least able to cope.

This is the first time that Malta addresses the UNFCCC as an Annex I Party. But we remain a small Mediterranean island country that is vulnerable to climate change. While being a committed member of the EU, we empathize with the situation of vulnerable developing countries, especially other small island states. We thus bring to this body a unique perspective – a basis

for our modest contribution to the common interest of humanity in confronting the climatic challenge.

Mme President,

Malta has a record of involvement in climate change issues. It was Malta's 1988 initiative for a United Nations resolution on the "Conservation of Climate as part of the Common Heritage of Mankind" that resulted in the adoption of this Convention in 1992.

In recent years, as a member of the European Union, we have undertaken national actions aimed towards both mitigation and adaptation:

In 2009 Malta adopted a "National Strategy for Policy and Abatement Measures Relating to the Reduction of Greenhouse Gases" containing mitigation measures aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and including the implementation of renewable energy sources, electricity efficiency and conservation. We have commenced the implementation of these measures including schemes for the promotion of solar water heaters, photovoltaic panels, and energy saving appliances and energy

saving light-bulbs distributed to each and every household according to the size of the family. Apart from the environmental benefits, with a one time investment of around 9 million euros for incentives we will be registering national savings in electricity generation of approximately 7 million Euros per year.

Malta is also currently finalising an Adaptation Strategy focusing on areas which are most likely to be affected by climate change, including water and flooding, health and socio-economic policy, biodiversity, tourism and agriculture.

A few weeks ago in Athens, Malta's Prime Minister joined in launching the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative that seeks to promote cooperative action among developed and developing countries in the region.

Malta is proud to announce that it has delivered in full on its fast-start finance pledge for 2010 made in the context of the Copenhagen Accord through grants made towards two programmes. We are also exploring options for the most effective

use of the fast-start funds pledged for 2011 and 2012, with a focus on projects in vulnerable countries in neighbouring Africa.

Mme President,

Malta stresses the importance of building a global international regime within this Convention that addresses climate change in a comprehensive and ambitious manner. In line with the findings of science, we must bring the phenomenon within manageable limits and encourage adaptation to the changes that cannot be averted. We should work together to turn this challenge into opportunities for economic growth through the advancement of green technologies and energy solutions as well as the promotion of sustainable lifestyles.

In conclusion Mme President, distinguished colleagues,

The battle against climate change is one of common concern for all mankind and success can only be achieved through collective action. We must *all* contribute in a fair and equitable manner to this concerted effort. Within the limits of our capacity and resources, Malta will continue to play its part.

Let us therefore take an important step here in Cancun towards tackling this global issue. Let us reach agreement on a balanced set of important decisions that express our serious commitment to avoiding dangerous climate change and reflect our responsibilities towards the most vulnerable and to future generations.