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Statement of H.E. Mr. Ivo Hlaváč,
Deputy Minister - Director General, Directorate of Technical Protection of Environment, Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic,
at the COP-16/CMP-6, Cancún, Mexico, 9th December 2010

Ms. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Firstly let me express my highest gratitude to the Government and People of Mexico, and in particular to His Excellency Felipe Calderón and Her Excellency Patricia Espinosa, for hosting this important conference, and for the enormous efforts given to this key milestone in climate negotiation process.

We all seek a new comprehensive and legally binding international framework to be reached next year in South Africa, therefore a successful outcome in Cancún is absolutely inevitable for our work-programme in 2011.

From the perspective of the Czech Republic, Cancún can represent a significant step forward by agreeing on a balanced outcome covering many crucial issues. It is important that Cancún delivers progress on all building blocks of the Bali Action Plan. For the Czech Republic the two core stones of a future agreement are mitigation and financing, as well as robust measuring, reporting and verification. These crucial issues could make or break our successful Cancún outcome. Other significant issues include action on adaptation to climate change and REDD-plus, enhanced technology transfer and strengthened carbon market.

As regards the Kyoto Protocol, the gap between the first and subsequent commitment period should be avoided or minimized. The Protocol and its functions must be kept alive for the future climate regime. We should continue with the efforts in strengthening it and enhancing overall environmental integrity including sufficient coverage of global greenhouse gas emissions. For the Czech Republic, it is an utmost priority to reduce emissions globally, which is impossible without active involvement of all the major emitters.

On the national level, the Czech Republic, as part of the European Union, is on the way to fulfil its commitments under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol. Currently our emissions are close to 30 % below the 1990 levels. We are ready to continue with new and additional policies and measures in order to perform our mitigation commitment within the EU climate and energy package by 2020. We are also preparing a new climate protection policy including an adaptation strategy to realize our ambitions, which should be approved by the Czech government in 2011.

As regards the fast-start financing, the Czech Republic has pledged 12 mil. EUR which will be provided to developing countries mainly for adaptation, mitigation and capacity building. We have already supported climate related projects and activities for example in Ethiopia, Mongolia, Yemen, Angola and Vietnam and more than half of our fast-start finance will be used for adaptation to climate change.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my closing remarks, I would like to mention that I appreciate the tireless work of our experts and negotiators. However, they now reached their limits and it is the responsibility of us politicians to give a clear and strong guidance to bring this process to its successful conclusion. Despite of our inability to reach a legally binding agreement at this conference, we have to work even harder and finalise a new legal treaty as soon as possible, not later than at the end of 2011.

The new climate deal may not satisfy all, but should move us towards a low-carbon future that is not hostile to the humankind and nature.

Thank you for your attention.