PLENARY STATEMENT OF MR. TAULANT BINO, ALBANIAN DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND WATER ADMINISTRATION

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Distinguished President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Albania has constantly worked to live up to its obligations, as a Non Annex-1 country, and as implementing an overall environmental protection policy. In addition we subscribed at the Copenhagen Accord within January 2010, aware of the complexity and variety of the mitigation measures.

Our country is undergoing a comprehensive process of reforms, as a result of EU membership agenda and a very ambitious legislation is in process all of which takes climate change in consideration.

Our fiscal policies, promotion of renewable energy, exploration of carbon finance mechanisms, all speak of our commitment for a carbon free economy.

Also, at a regional level, we joined other Mediterranean countries in the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative.

But our most direct contribution is renewable energy. Though over 90% of our electricity generates from hydro power, Albania has engaged in more than 100 projects on hydro and wind energy, with a total power of over 2500 MW.

An additional area of solar water heating panels of around 540,000 m^2 is foreseen for year 2025, and other projects on biomass-to-energy, bio-fuels, and sanitary landfills with methane capture have started their implementation.

There is already one registered CDM forestation project, and we remain much interested to further use this mechanism to finance other initiatives.

Furthermore, the implementation of the measures designed from the Greenhouse-gases Abatement scenario of the Second National Communication, aims at around 40% reduction of GHG emissions in 2025 compared to 1990 levels.

We have recently started the self-assessment exercise to prioritize our needs for and write the Third National Communication of Albania to Climate Change.

This will again act as a guiding instrument, to link to the development of the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Measures.

Adaptation is one pillar we have to consider more: unfortunately we witnessed this year and these days alone considerable economic impacts from massive flooding in many areas of the country.

Albania has prepared the Action Plan for Adaptation to expected climate change and aims to mainstream the climate vulnerability and adaptation response to the national planning and policy.

However, we alone, and without the assistance of the developed countries, seem to not be able to combat those extreme events.

As a prospective EU country and a non Annex 1 country, we are much interested in the

outcome of the negotiations specifically on:

- The future of carbon markets and future of CDM;
- Link between NAMA-s and financial support from Annex 1 Countries;
- Reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;
- Rules and regulations on functioning of Climate Change Fund *and*
- Developed countries emissions targets and the way of how they can be formally advanced in the process.

Dear participants,

Concluding, let me reiterate Albania's commitment to address climate change issues, to incorporate its principles in its development and environmental policies, and to not fail in its modest contribution towards carbon emissions reductions.

We remain confident that the Parties will not miss the chance of making Cancun a success!

Thank you for your attention!