Statement of H.E. Jozsef Nagy,
Minister of the Environment of the Slovak Republic
At the 16 COP, Cancún, Mexico, 7 December 2010

Ms. President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates:

Firstly, let me express my gratitude to the Government of the United Mexican States, and especially to His Excellency Mr. Felipe Calderon and Her Excellency Ms. Patricia Espinosa for hosting this conference in this beautiful country.

Climate change is now recognized as the most significant environmental challenge in front of us. Not only nature but also we suffer the consequences, as we are a part of the environment.

We need global and legally binding agreement to stimulate innovation and use of low carbon technologies. It is a long-term journey where visible results for public are coming slowly.

The Slovak Republic as all other European union member states is fully convinced and committed to this effort. We recognize all benefits and opportunities such as energy security, green jobs, food and water supply and health benefits. On top of this is improvement of competitiveness.

Based on experiences of the Slovak Republic I want to affirm you that mitigation effort need not necessarily to be accompanied with the negative social and economic impacts. Even small country as the Slovak Republic can offer the good and applicable story.

We have adopted strict air pollution legislation in 1991 despite of our significant economic recession. This resulted in decoupling of greenhouse gas emissions and GDP growth in 1997 even having highly energy intensive type of economy.

Due to our technological restructuring and fuel switching the share of CO2 emissions on primary energy consumption decreased by more than 23% in period 1990-2005.

The Slovak Republic has already contributed to the EU fast- start commitment and is ready to continue in the next two years. This money will be used for

capacity building project on MRV in Kenya. This project will be complemented with the forest protection and biodiversity conservation project and also with project on integrated landscape and water management. Our fast-start activities are comprehensive to support also the biodiversity and combat desertification.

The Slovak government has officially approved the Programme of landscape revitalisation and integrated river basin management. It represents comprehensive approach to decrease landscape vulnerability to climate change impacts and to recover services of eco-systems. Knowledge and expertise acquired during the programme implementation will be directly applicable in our fast start projects.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are slowly concluding Cancún conference. But we know this is not yet the end of story. It can be a break point for climate change process.

In our hand is the key to open quickly the right doors to save the Earth for our children.