National Statement — Australia: Foreign Minister. COP22

[437 words]

Mr President, Ministers, colleagues.

I extend Australia's appreciation to Morocco for hosting this important conference.

Australia is a strong supporter of the Paris Agreement. We ratified the Agreement last week and welcome its entry into force.

Australia has also ratified the Kyoto Protocol Second Commitment Period.

Success depends on our actions and Australia is on track to meet our 2020 target.

Our 2030 target will halve our per capita emissions and reduce emissions by two-thirds per unit of GDP.

Australia is also supporting other countries reduce emissions through their Nationally Determined Contributions, with around 100 NDCs identifying the land sector as a priority.

Yesterday I announced a major new initiative. Australia's $16 million Indo-Pacific Land Action Package will help countries strengthen land management, fund public-private sector partnerships, and achieve greater coordination through the NDC Partnership launched in Marrakesh.

This is complemented by a $2 million contribution to the Global Environment Facility's Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency.

As co-chair of the Green Climate Fund Australia is working to ensure the effectiveness and impact of funding, to leverage the private sector and to improve countries' access to funds, particularly for the Pacific.

We welcome the $100 billion Roadmap and the impact it will have mobilising private sector capital.

Australia is also pushing into new areas, working with business and industry to increase the impact of public funding.

For example, Australia has invested $32 million in the Private Infrastructure Development Group to lower the perceived risk of energy infrastructure in parts of Asia, to make them more attractive to private investors.

Through this group, and building on investor confidence, a hydropower project in Vietnam is now delivering 30 megawatts of clean power, benefiting up to 130,000 people.

In addition, our International Partnership for Blue Carbon is focused on coastal ecosystems for mitigation, adaptation, food security and livelihoods.

We also support the work of the International Coral Reef Initiative to make the world's coral reefs more resilient, complemented by Australia's world leading Reef 2050 Plan for the protection of the Great Barrier Reef.

I also welcome the phase down in the use of hydrofluorocarbons under the Montreal Protocol, with Australia co-chairing the negotiations.

Australia has joined the International Civil Aviation Organization's carbon reductions scheme, which will see airlines offset emissions growth beyond 2020.

A growing number of nations have agreed to reduce shipping emissions through the work of the International Maritime Organization.

The long term challenge is integrating our climate actions across policy, business and industry decisions to achieve the global transition we signed up to last year.

Australia is committed to this long-term goal and we look forward to working across the climate landscape to make this happen.