Statement by Kaspars Gerhards, Minister of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia

- ✓ Mr. President, dear Excellences, ladies and gentlemen!
- ✓ I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Republic of Latvia.

- ✓ This year has been tremendously successful – the Paris Agreement has entered into force less than a year after its adoption and we already can witness its positive influence.
- ✓ **In Latvia too** currently there is an unprecedented **interest** in climate change issues. People are becoming more aware of the urgency of the issue and action needed.

- ✓ Only **decisive** actions can lead us to fulfilment of the promises we included in the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ We must **act now**.

- ✓ This year almost every month has been the hottest month ever since contemporary records began in 1880. Climate change **is happening**.
- ✓ For settlements it is especially serious challenge.
- ✓ Urban territories are home to more than half of world's population and much of the world's industry.
- ✓ Everyone is being influenced.

- ✓ Therefore I hope that the progress achieved here in Marrakech in preparing the **detailed rules** for the implementation of the Paris Agreement shall be sustainable.

- ✓ We need to make sure that **the rules** foster the implementation of the Agreement in the **most ambitious** way possible.

- ✓ Moreover, a lot of work has to be done **domestically**.
- ✓ We need to design **national policies** for the implementation of our **nationally determined contributions**.
- ✓ We have to develop long term strategies for low carbon pathways.

- ✓ In Latvia we are working on the low carbon development strategy for 2050. It is necessary to **guide our society** in changing consumption and production patterns.
- ✓ This is **essential** to ensure transition towards low carbon and climate resilient future.

- ✓ I'm sure that here is Marrakech we can demonstrate to the world that we are **delivering on ambition** that was put in the Paris Agreement.

- ✓ Thank you!