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Address by H.E. Mrs. Cristiana PASCA PALMER,
Minister of Environment, Water and Forests,
Head of the delegation of Romania
Marrakech, 16 November 2016

Mr. President, Excellences,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to start by expressing my congratulations to you, Mr. President, for your election as the President of COP 22. I would like to use this opportunity to extend my warmest appreciation to the Government and people of Morocco for their generous hospitality in hosting this COP22.

In Paris, we **collectively agreed on an ambitious, legally binding agreement, applicable to all countries, which aims to address climate change and paves the way towards sustainable, low carbon and resilient development.**

The rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement sent a strong message to the world that Paris was not a one-time occurrence.

I want to congratulate all countries that made possible the rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement and inform you that our internal ratification process is almost over. We will very soon add our name to the Party list.

However, it was merely a first step on the path to limiting the average temperature growth. The next steps are equally important: the adoption of the rulebook and the implementation of our commitments.

Therefore, I would like to make an appeal to all of you to maintain the "Spirit of Paris" and continue showing the same determination in order to agree all elements that are necessary to operationalize the Paris Agreement.

Achieving our long term temperature goals will require the participation of the entire society: the business and financial sectors, the civil society and most importantly all our citizens.

In order to build mutual trust and confidence and to promote effective implementation of commitments under the Paris Agreement we need a robust transparency framework. We need to be able to understand and assess the progress we are making towards achieving our goals and also help ourselves in designing better policies at home.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The **implementation of our commitments** is crucial in order to maintain the credibility of the Paris Agreement. We need to jump start the implementation of the contributions and ensure that the full potential of the INDCs is unlocked.

Romania considers that the global goals we agreed in Paris could only be achieved by international cooperation and initiatives to increase climate resilience. Building low-carbon economies and stimulating investments through appropriate national development strategies,

aiming to ensure prosperity and preserving the balance of the planet, are also crucial for the next decade.

Romania is fully committed to do its share, as it is enshrined in the EU and its Member States INDC **a binding, economy-wide emissions reduction target of at least 40% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.**

In this respect, Romania has adopted a 2030 Climate change and low carbon economy Strategy and Plan with clear landmarks, objectives and forefront opportunities to address climate change challenges and build up sustainable development pathways.

Also, we are implementing targeted programs to stimulate electro-mobility, renewable energy and increase energy efficiency.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Romania is aware that the least developed and most vulnerable countries need our support and solidarity to address their domestic climate challenges, as well as to fulfill their commitments.

Therefore, I would like to conclude by mentioning that this year, Romania made a contribution to the Green Climate Fund, and we intend to continue rendering our support in the future years.

I would like to conclude by making an appeal to all of you to keep the momentum and continue showing the same determination in order to agree all elements that are necessary to operationalize the Paris Agreement, as well as to start shifting our efforts towards the implementation of our commitments.

Thank you.