HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Ministry of Environment & Energy

Mr. President,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before starting, I would like to express my gratitude to the Kingdom of Morocco and the city of Marrakech for their excellent organization and kind hospitality.

It is my pleasure to be here today and I would like to thank the Presidency of COP22 for giving me the floor.

Following the historic breakthrough achieved in Paris last year, enhancing worldwide collective action towards a climate-resilient and sustainable world, we know what we need to do.

We need to stay below 2 degrees Celsius, and global greenhouse gas emissions need to peak by 2020 at the latest and be near zero or below, by the end of the century.

Furthermore, we know what is at stake, if we do not meet these targets.

However, it remains for us, to agree on the way to do it.

So, we need to discuss and agree on the details. We believe, this is where, COP22 in Marrakesh, can play a decisive role.

In Europe and in Greece we all recognize that climate change is a major global challenge – and we have been active for some time now.

The results of these efforts have transformed the EU into one of the most carbon-efficient major economies in the world, with low levels of CO2 per GDP.

Greece, together with the other EU states, wants to turn Europe into a highly energy efficient and low-carbon economy which is expected also to boost the economy, create jobs and strengthen Europe's sustainability.

The Paris Agreement on climate change was a historic achievement but we know this was only the beginning of a huge and complicated global task. In that respect, it is imperative that all economic sectors should contribute to achieving the necessary emission reductions.

We all need to do our share, since global problems need worldwide reaction and there are positive signs which are giving us hope.

We are very pleased with the global deal reached last month in Kigali, to limit the use of hydro-fluoro-carbons, which can be crucial to achieve the temperature goal of 2 degrees Celsius.

We are also very pleased that recently, both ICAO and IMO have put the foundations for monitoring and reducing greenhouse gases emission from international transport.

For whatever regards Greece, and particularly climate mitigation issues, together with the other European Union countries, we concentrate our efforts to reduce green-house gas emissions.

Our first climate target was for 20% green-house-gases reduction by 2020, that we expect to overachieve, meanwhile following the Nationally Determined Contribution commitments, we are already preparing national plans for the second climate target, which is to domestically reduce green-house-gases in European Union by 40% in 2030.

Greek government is also promoting the advance of renewable energy sources together with specific plans for the energy efficiency enhancement of public and private buildings.

Apart from the mitigation efforts, Greece is focusing also in the climate adaptation measures by adopting a National Adaptation Strategy that was ratified by Law.

In that context, by the end of next year, the majority of the thirteen Greek Regions are expected to prepare detailed regional adaptation action plans.

In order to coordinate the plans and achieve the maximum outcome, a national adaptation observation and monitoring mechanism is foreseen, to provide scientific support tools to our Regions.

Mr President,

I guess we all share the view that we need to prepare - as soon as possible - the effective and comprehensive implementation of the Paris Agreement.

To do that, we should maintain the balance and spirit of the Paris Agreement (and try to avoid re-interpretation of the provisions).

Our meetings here can help by moving closer from National to Global Action Plans, by making the “measuring progress process” as transparent as possible and by involving the Business Sector.

The areas of specific focus are, among others, the Nationally Determined Contributions application process, the global Action agenda, and the implementation, firstly of the ambition mechanism, and secondly of the common transparency framework.

As I said in the beginning, we know what is at stake, if we do not meet our global targets.

Climate change is expected to provoke natural disasters that may trigger also migration waves.

In my country, as you might know, we are already facing a refugee wave that is devastating both socially and economically.

Eventually, climate refugees will become a major new challenge – if we do not act immediately.

In that respect, the entry into force of Paris agreement, should not only signal climate change abatement, but should also stress the importance of respecting and safeguarding human rights, gender equality and education for all with decent working conditions, while ensuring food security in the context of a truly sustainable world.

For that reason, we should emphasise synergies between the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Agenda Twenty-Thirty, the Sendai Framework and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, since these are very important and interlinked steps forward, ensuring safe climate conditions with sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Thank you