**STATEMENT**

**OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**to the**

***Twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC***
***Twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol***
***First session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement***

***Marrakesh, Morocco, 7 to 18 November 2016***

**Delivered by**
**Slaven Dobrović**

**MINISTER**
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**
**AND ENERGY**

Mr President, Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by expressing the warmest thanks to the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Morocco, for hosting these significant Conferences in their beautiful country and the city of Marrakesh.

The adoption of the Paris Agreement and its early entering into force entail great changes, which already lead to global unity in the attempt to transform our world into a low carbon emission society, resilient to climate change. The daily increase in the number of parties joining it, proves that we are on the right path towards the common goal. Croatia's national ratification procedure is entering its final stage and we have been engaged in the preparation of the Agreement within the framework of our membership in the EU ever since the beginning of the process. We are therefore keen to continue to be a part of the preparations for the Agreement's implementation.

Mr President,

Although it marked an important turning point, the swift entry into force of the Agreement does not ensure transformation by itself, unless we all embed our commitment to mitigation, adaptation and securing stable financing into national policies. Croatia, although a small country with a low emission contribution, is determined to assume its share of responsibility in this process.

To that purpose, Croatia is developing its Low-carbon Development Strategy and institutional framework for the period until 2030, with a view to 2050, in order to foster socio-economic development based on sustainability principles with reduced GHG emissions.

Furthermore, Croatia is particularly vulnerable to climate change the effects of which are already noticeable in certain sectors, such as agriculture and tourism. It is crucial to establish the climate change adaptation system and take measures to protect from negative impacts, reduce possible damage and costs. To that end, we are concurrently preparing our National Adaptation Strategy.

Mr President, distinguished delegates,

Croatia firmly believes in the success of the Paris Agreement. The Agreement is ambitious, however, we have to keep in mind that, over time, we will have to make our efforts even more ambitious if we wish to achieve our goals.

Furthermore, we understand the significance of ensuring adequate financing for its success. We welcome our common efforts in enhancing the Transparency framework which will undoubtedly strengthen the mutual trust and assist countries in creating national policies.

Likewise, we believe that capacity building is crucial for assisting developing countries to take effective climate change action. We therefore deem particularly important the establishment of the Paris Committee on Capacity Building, as well as of the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency trust fund, by GEF. As my final point, I would like to mention that, based on our experience, bilateral transfer of knowledge between countries is proven to be an excellent form of assistance and Croatia welcomes such initiatives. In this regard, I am proud that the intelligent solar trees that have been chosen to embellish this already beautiful conference venue, and which you can see in front of the restaurants, have been designed and made in Croatia.

Allow me to conclude by reiterating our support for global efforts concerning climate change and the belief in the success of the Paris Agreement.

Thank you.