National Statement
Principality of Liechtenstein

Councillor Marlies Amann-Marxer

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- check against delivery -

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the people and the Government of Morocco for their warm and welcoming hospitality in this very beautiful and pulsating city.

After years of long and, unfortunately, somewhat hesitant negotiations we now have experienced 12 months of bustling activity, these last 12 months can only be characterized as unprecedented.

In December 2015 over 190 countries with different cultures, languages, histories and religions reached a universal agreement. The agreement aims to keep the global average temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius this century. Moreover, we will drive efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. That, ladies and gentlemen, is unprecedented.

On April the 22nd this year over 170 countries came to New York in order to sign the Paris Agreement. This was by far the largest number of countries ever to sign an international agreement on a single day. That is unprecedented.

On October the 4th this year no less than 55 countries emitting more than 55 per cent of global greenhouse gases handed in the instrument of ratification. Thereby the threshold that put the Paris Agreement into force was surpassed. It took 7 years to put the Kyoto Protocol into force, while the Paris Agreement was put into force in less than one year. That, dear colleagues, is unprecedented.

The Paris Agreement will unleash action and send signals to the markets, but it will take a sustained effort to set the world on a safer and greener path.

Mr. President,

Rest assured that Liechtenstein is ready to make this effort in order to take that safer and greener path. And we want to take this path together with our friends and partners within the framework of the Paris Agreement.

I have instructed my staff to prepare the ratification of the Paris Agreement by our Parliament as soon as possible. We expect to become a full member to the Agreement by mid-2017.

Liechtenstein is already governed by high environmental standards, which renders further domestic emission reductions difficult to achieve. Nontheless, we will not stop to further improve energy efficiency, promote renewable energy production and set incentives for the establishment of a low carbon economy in Liechtenstein. We have done so in the past and we will do so in the future.

Being aware of our responsibility and taking into account our capabilities, Liechtenstein aims to achieve a 40 % reduction of total Greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, based on 1990 levels.

We will prove that economic growth can be decoupled from greenhouse gas emissions; we will prove — that — one day — emissions in transportation may be history and that our electricity may be generated purely by renewables.

I am confident that we will achieve the goals that we set ourselves 11 months ago. In 100 years our grandchildren may well look back and tell their children — the speed of the transition from a global economy into a low carbon world — that is unprecedented!

Shukran - thank you!