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2015 International Climate Change Agreement

The CEZ Group believes that if the 2015 Agreement should fulfil the expectations of all actors engaged, it must stem from the only, so far concluded, universal agreement that is the Convention.

The Convention includes general principles and also brings the ultimate target to be achieved. However, the new agreement has to be broader in coverage, stronger in legal enforcement of the commitments and should better correspond to the changes that took place since the birth of the Convention. Namely the ageing of the paradigm of the traditional world bringing about the prevailing excuses for a non-action has to be, in the light of the recent scientific confirmation of the threats connected with the climate change, abolished. Thus voluntary pledges should be reserved only for LDCs and significant progress of the discussion of the issue of graduation is needed.

Global GHG mitigation efforts shall not be done at the expense of the sustainable development of the economies. That is possible if the GHG externalities are reflected in their outputs. Practically it means to introduce market based mechanisms, such as emission trading or a carbon tax into all sectors. That is crucial predominantly in terms of major economies that shall lead by example. To make the market solution more attractive, progress in linking of regional markets as well as the enhancement of the existing ones is desired. On the other hand, measures against free riders and carbon leakage must be established in the Agreement. Furthermore, the measures shall be in line with the international rules for the trade liberalization anchored in the WTO agreements.

It is clear that the main objective of the 2015 Agreement shall be GHG mitigation. Since the more one mitigates the less adaptation is needed. On the other hand, as there are already some irreversible impacts in place here, the adaptation together with increasing the resilience is vital. In this vein the adaptation shall be further promoted mainly via its inclusion into other international initiatives as the Millennium goals or green growth.