

*Lithuanian National Statement to the COP25*  
*By Mr. Marius Narmontas, Vice-minister of Environment*  
*Madrid, 11 December 2019*

It is a great pleasure for me to address you at this COP25 in the beautiful city of Madrid. Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement by the EU and its Member States.

It is of the utmost importance to identify and to admit globally that today's human society is facing climate crisis and we must challenge it. The IPCC Special Report's conclusion, that the commitments of the parties are not sufficient to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, is a strong signal for stepping up additional global efforts.

In order to achieve goals of the Paris Agreement, all countries have to shift towards climate-neutral economy as soon as possible. We believe that transition offers new opportunities for innovations, competitiveness and jobs. Lithuania's experience proves that economy growth can be decoupled from the increase of emissions. In the last 25 years our greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by almost 60 percent, while our GDP has increased by 42 percent.

Lithuania has successfully implemented Kyoto Protocol, particularly in the first commitment period (2008–2012) with reducing more than 55 percent of our GHG emissions over this period and we are on track to reach our targets for the Kyoto second commitment period (2013–2020) together with EU and its Member States.

When it comes to Paris Agreement, Lithuania jointly with the EU and its Member States made a binding commitment to meet the target of at least 40 percent domestic reduction in economy-wide GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 1990. By the end of this year Lithuania will finalize the National Long term Low Carbon Development and Adaptation Strategy with a view to reach net-zero emissions by 2050.

Concrete measures of all economy sectors for the coming decade are set in the integrated Nacional energy and climate plan. Our climate change mitigation policy is based on the sustainable use of renewables and increased energy efficiency. Along with developing wind and solar energy, we are also determined to switch from fossil fuels to biomass in the central heating sector.

We are improving energy efficiency in buildings by implementing ambitious modernization programme for multi-apartment and public buildings. Multi-apartment Building Renovation Programme aims to reduce at least 20 percent of energy use with 230 thousands of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> saving by 2020.

In order to mitigate climate change we must speed up our policies on circular economy and bio-economy. Lithuania has decreased the total GHG emissions in waste sector by 30 percent since 2005. Due to deposit refund system of single-use packaging introduced from 2016 we collect almost 92 percent of packaging placed on the market. It is one of the most effective and advanced deposit refund systems in the world.

Aiming to shift investments towards a low carbon economy we promote cooperation between public, private sector and financial institutions. This cooperation has proved as a valid alternative source of finance for investments in low carbon solutions. An example of greening finance for sustainable business is a project implemented by Lietuvos Energija. Lithuania's national energy company, which is one of the largest state-owned energy groups in the Baltics, in cooperation with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, has successfully issued 300 million euros green bonds and attracted nearly 1.4 billion euros for investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean transportation and pollution prevention and control.

Lithuania also contributes to climate finance for developing countries. We are determined to mobilize at least 1 million euros for climate financing from public and private sources annually, and in 2019 we reached around 2 million euros. We are using public finances to mobilize private sector investments into low carbon solutions, under bilateral cooperation projects transferring technologies to developing countries.

Inter-relation of climate change goals, environment protection and energy security are equally important for sustainable development of energy. Coping with these aspects of cross border nature in all the projects are essential conditions to achieve sustainable development goals. Due to transboundary impact nuclear energy could be climate friendly and safe only if developed in full compliance with environmental and nuclear safety requirements. Regretfully it is not the case of Ostrovets Nuclear Power Plant project.

I believe that acting together Parties and Non-State Actors can effectively tackle the climate challenge.

Thank you for your attention.