

**National Statement of Ireland**  
**COP28, Dubai, United Arab Emirates**  
**2 December 2023**

Excellencies,

As Leaders, there is a profound responsibility on our shoulders.

Never before have the alarm bells been ringing so loudly.

We must rise to this challenge.

I believe we can.

We cannot prevent climate change, we're well past that point, but by acting urgently now, we can limit its extent and mitigate its worst effects.

In mobilising our societies, we must recognise our people's concerns and bring people with us – our farmers, our workers, our enterprises, our people.

With the cost-of-living and high energy prices, many worry about how much the transition will cost and what it will mean for their jobs and incomes and living standards.

Those are legitimate concerns. We need to understand where people are coming from and offer reassurance.

Change is difficult, but we must do everything in our power to make the transition just, protecting the vulnerable and leaving nobody behind.

And we need to do a better job explaining the benefits: a liveable planet, cleaner air, new jobs and economic opportunities; a more secure world, with less conflict over resources, more reliable energy, fewer people on the move from homes that can no longer support them.

In Ireland, I lead a Government committed to halving emissions by 2030, and to climate neutrality by 2050.

We have a climate law and carbon budget.

We have a new ‘Infrastructure, Climate and Nature Fund’ and a ‘Future Ireland Fund’ to help us meet the costs. This will put billions aside for future investment for future generations.

We have a carbon tax to incentivise the shift from fossil fuels with money used to ensure a just transition, retrofitting our housing stock, installing EV charging points, and helping farmers adopt sustainable practices.

We have a new Maritime Area Regulatory Authority to oversee Ireland's renewable energy revolution and harness our vast offshore wind potential, powering millions of homes and businesses across the continent with clean, renewable energy.

Ireland is a wealthy country. Even so, we are struggling to make as much progress as needed. We are constantly looking at ways to improve.

I'm conscious of the even greater challenges others face, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

So, the Loss and Damage fund must begin disbursing finance as soon as possible.

Ireland will double our climate finance to at least €225 million per year by 2025, and this year, we will spend close to €150 million.

Today I am announcing a contribution of €25 million to the new Loss and Damage Fund for 2024 and 2025.

We will make further contributions thereafter.

So, dear friends, let us also work together so the world has the financial firepower and institutions and infrastructure it needs to make the journey we need to make together.

We have to prioritise investment in energy access and low carbon development for the most vulnerable countries. This COP must also set us on a clear path to a safe and planned reduction in the use of fossil fuels.

Excellencies,

Secretary General Guterres has set us the challenge of turning a year of burning heat into a year of burning ambition.

Let us rise to that challenge.