

**National Statement, Alexander Van der Bellen, President of the
Federal Republic of Austria**

„check against delivery“

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

dear representatives of the Civil Society,

In 2015, at COP21, we adopted

the Paris Agreement.

A common goal,

to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

But we have to be honest,

we are far from reaching the 1,5 goal.

In fact, the opposite is happening:

Global CO₂ emissions

rapidly rebounded following the COVID-19 pandemic.

And all around the world,

we are experiencing the devastating consequences

of the climate emergency.

Large parts of the Global South
– of which Egypt is also a representative –
are hit particularly hard
by the effects of the climate crisis.

Rightfully so, the most affected countries
demand financial support
for climate adaptation
as well as measures to address loss and damage.

We, the countries of the Global North,
are responsible for a large part of global CO₂ emissions.

Austria will assume its responsibility
by significantly increasing its budget
for international climate finance.

In the upcoming years – the period from 2023 to 2026 –
the ministry for climate action will provide
an additional 220 million euros

in international climate finance.

For me, as the Austrian President,
it was important that my country shows solidarity.

We want to do our part
to save the world's rainforests from disappearing,
to protect our oceans and its incredible marine life
and to support the resilience of our most vulnerable communities.

However, we cannot limit ourselves
to the question of climate finance.

Because one thing is clear:
we cannot buy ourselves out of the climate crisis.

Money alone won't make our air cleaner,
it won't stop Earth from warming up,
and it won't prevent the glaciers from melting.

Austria aims to
become climate neutral by 2040.

Many other countries have set themselves similar goals.

But these goals must be backed up by concrete measures.

Otherwise they are just blah blah blah,

as Greta Thunberg would say.

Indeed, when we look at the UNEP report, we can clearly see:

there is far too much blah blah blah and far too little concrete action.

I understand Greta's criticism.

I understand that young people – but not only young people –

are running out of patience.

It is up to us to do everything we can

to regain trust.

Through concrete action and through binding commitments.

Austria will do its part.

We are expanding renewable energies,

we are phasing out the installation of fossil fuel heating systems,

we are investing record sums

in public transport.

These are steps in the right direction,

but we need to do much more, much faster.

All of us, no matter from which country, political party or institution we are coming from, must ask ourselves every day:

how can we do even better?

We must do everything we can

to ensure

a liveable future on this beautiful planet

for generations to come.

Thank you!