

Statement of His Excellency

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Secretary of State

*Ministry of Environment
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ROMANIA

*South -East European perspectives-Belgrad Initiative: enhancing the
regional South-East European cooperation in the field of climate change*

¹ The present document is a scanned copy of a statement received on 11 October 2007 during the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" (Belgrade, 10-12 October 2007). The document has not been formally processed by the UNECE.

***Dear Mr. Chairman,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Climate change is considered one of the most serious threats to sustainable development, with adverse impacts on the environment, natural resources, food security, human health, economic activity and physical infrastructure.

As you know, in recent years, various regions throughout the world experienced many extreme weather related events, such as floods and droughts, and similar serious threats are also foreseen for the future. It is obviously for all of us that global warming and inducing climate change already affects the day-to-day life of citizens and this problem should be addressed as a matter of priority. I would like to remind you about the recent catastrophically events that affected countries in our region, namely the 2005 and 2006 floods and the 2007 heat waves and drought as well.

Climate change is a global challenge, and addressing it will require global action. This is why our climate and energy strategy sets out a vision for a strengthened global response to climate change, through a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement under the UNFCCC, which should build upon and broaden the Kyoto Protocol architecture and provide a fair and flexible framework for the widest possible contributions.

Romania believes that further essential elements of a post-2012 agreement should be brought together into an effective and appropriate framework allowing us to avoid dangerous climate change. This framework comprises, in our view, different building blocks, like a shared vision to reach the ultimate objective of the Convention, deeper absolute emission reduction commitments by developed countries, promoting further fair and effective contributions by other countries, extending the carbon market, enhancing efforts to address adaptation, reducing emissions from

deforestation and increasing cooperation on technology research, development, diffusion, deployment and transfer.

The UN Climate Change Conference in Bali in December 2007 should decide to launch a process for achieving a global and comprehensive post-2012 agreement under the UNFCCC by the end of 2009.

Romania, as the first Annex I Party that ratified the Kyoto Protocol, is not only politically committed in the first commitment period to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 8 percent, but was also engaged itself in the last decade in a social, economical and financial reform. Based on these facts, our main objective is to continue the decoupling of the economic growth with the greenhouse gas emissions increase in the next years, by implementing coherent policies and measures related to energy efficiency, promotion of renewable energy use, decreasing the energy intensity in industry, clean transportation, agriculture and waste management.

Please allow me to end by welcoming the launching of the Belgrade Climate Change Initiative and the establishment of a sub-regional virtual climate change related centre, here, in Belgrade.

We further expect that this initial step will catalyze co-operation between the states in our region, will contribute to enhance the capacity building - also for the implementation of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol, to rehabilitate and modernize the technological infrastructure, to increase the level of knowledge on impacts and vulnerability, to faster the dissemination of information on practical adaptation to climate change measures and the clean technology transfer.

Thank you very much for your attention.