



Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the United Nations

**STATEMENT BY
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Madam President, Distinguished guests, Colleagues, Ladies and gentlemen!

Let me thank you, Madam President, for convening this important meeting on climate change. Our yesterday's deliberations based on the latest scientific data, as well as the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report clearly show that climate change is already having significant impacts in different regions of the world.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, but would like to point out some of its national strategies.

Croatia firmly believes that global action is needed in order to protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind. This action should be based on equity and in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Even though Croatia's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is rather small - particularly when considering its net emissions, since more than half of the emissions is absorbed by the wood increment - we believe in the necessity of an active participation of all UNFCCC Parties in our common efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change impacts.

In facing today's climate change challenges Croatia estimates that commitments on national level are crucial. Climate change in our part of the world might affect the Adriatic sea level, change the hydrological situation, and in turn jeopardize Croatian main branch of economy – tourism as well as agriculture. They might also have a significant effect on forests, as well as on biological diversity and eco-systems. Therefore, mitigation, adaptation, disaster reduction and risk assessment are essential.

Madam President,

I would like to point out that Croatia has recently ratified the Kyoto Protocol, which will enter into force this month. In order to fulfill its commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 5% as compared to the base year 1990, Croatia has also developed a