



IRELAND

Statement from An Taoiseach

Mr. Brian Cowen, T.D.,

On the occasion of the

Summit on Climate Change

**United Nations, New York
22 September 2009**

I wholeheartedly support Secretary General Ban's initiative today in seeking to strengthen the political momentum and vision required to reach an effective and ambitious global agreement on climate change next December in Copenhagen.

The scientific advice is clear on both the potential impact of climate change, and the importance of early and effective action. The importance of reaching a meaningful, effective and comprehensive global response cannot be underestimated.

Within the European Union we recognize the need for concerted action amongst all global stakeholders, to work in partnership based on mutual interest and respect, fairness and a resolve to succeed.

The European Union is acknowledged as a global leader in the fight against climate change and Ireland is playing its full part in supporting the commitment of the EU to reaching an international agreement. In the European Union, we have already committed ourselves to a target of a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and are prepared to step up to a 30% target as part of a fair and effective global agreement.

I welcome the opportunity to join with my fellow European colleagues and other Heads of State and Government in providing the vision and leadership required to shape this fair and effective global response to climate change. We cannot do it alone. We need developing countries to commit to their fair share too, while we equally recognize the need for the global approach to address the needs and circumstances of the most vulnerable countries.

A coherent response to climate change and to the current global economic downturn presents a unique opportunity to expedite a move to a low-carbon future capable of sustainable growth and better quality of life for all the peoples of the planet.

We have a responsibility to protect the environment, for the benefit of both this and future generations. Climate change presents such enormous challenges to the people of this world that a united and effective global action is not just an option – it is a necessity. I look forward to the contribution this Summit can make to a successful outcome in Copenhagen this December.

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