



**Video Statement by President of the Republic of Finland Tarja Halonen
to the Summit on Climate Change in New York on 22 September 2009**

Climate change is a real global challenge of our time. Some countries are already affected strongly by it. We all have to meet with solidarity our responsibilities and take urgent action. In order to achieve our goal, all countries - industrialized and developing countries – must be committed to this global challenge. The Copenhagen Summit is a real possibility to take a new path.

The new really global agreement can give us strong political leadership and guidance. We need political determination and global solidarity. The new climate agreement must include necessary arrangements to support developing countries' mitigation and adaptation actions. At the same time, we must remain strong with our efforts for poverty eradication – and respect our joint pledge to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals. The welfare of people goes hand in hand with the welfare of nature.

Copenhagen offers us a possibility to build a new global model for sustainable development. So there is no reason to delay the development of a low carbon economy because of the global recession. On the contrary, we need to promote green recovery strategies, which can open the possibility of a low-carbon future for us all and can give us new jobs.

We know that climate change will hit most seriously the poorest regions and the weakest groups of people. About 70 % of the poor in the world are women, and they will suffer most by the effects of climate change. By helping women to survive in their everyday lives, we can promote the overall goals of sustainable development.

Women will and can be powerful actors to mitigate climate change. We need to ensure full and active participation of women both in the making and in the implementation of the new deal.

Let us join our hearts and hands and seal the deal for the future of our planet. The time to act is now.