

Speaking Points of His Excellency Mr. Paulo Lemos

Secretary of State for Environment

Republic of Portugal

Interactive Dialogue #4 – “Protecting our Planet and Combatting Climate Change”

STRUCTURE - Intervention in three points:

1. Climate change: a sustainable development challenge
2. Paris in the horizon: looking for global agreement
3. Portugal is preparing for the future: going for green growth

Good afternoon.

Greetings to the hosts and to all the participants on behalf of Portugal.

1. Climate change: a sustainable development challenge

- From the policy perspective it's clear that we need to rethink the development processes and to assume a more ambitious agenda focused on the long term.
- The goal (13th) “taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” assumes a set of underlying ideas:
 - Immediate action is needed: today not tomorrow
 - To build capacities – from passive to active resilience
 - To promote awareness, education and communication
 - Resources are need - more millions to invest
 - But need more than that for being more effective
 - Society engagement
 - Innovation and even technological disruption
 - Political commitment

2. Paris in the horizon: looking for global agreement

- COP Ambition - Securing an effective, ambitious, fair and legally binding 2015 Agreement is our key and mutual challenge - a challenge we must meet in order to address climate change and limit its impacts effectively, equitably and with a long-term perspective.
- We have to adopt a single global, rules-based, legally binding agreement, preferably in the form of a new Protocol, applicable to all, according to common but differentiated responsibilities, in order to ensure the global temperature increase stays below 2° C.
- This agreement should foster climate resilience as well as facilitate adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change.
- Furthermore, it should also address the financial gap and to enhance a global carbon market, linking national, regional and sectorial cap-and-trade schemes.
- This ambition at the international level is fully in line with our national vision and with the steps we are undertaking at home.