



GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. FRANCISCO NUNES CORREIA
MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT,
SPATIAL PLANNING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**TO THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE,**

POZNAN, 12 DECEMBER 2008

Mr. President,

Let me first associate myself with the statement made by France on behalf of the EU. Last year in Bali we agreed on an historic roadmap to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention, providing political guidance for meeting the challenges posed to us by the climate crisis.

The Bali Roadmap takes into account the different role each of us has to play, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and on each Party's responsibilities and respective capabilities.

We have had a busy and fruitful year. We addressed all issues under the Bali Action Plan and assessed many approaches and heard many points of view. The wealth of such views has provided us with a foundation for the remaining year up to Copenhagen.

Of course differences still subsist. The road ahead is no doubt hard.

But, as the Executive Secretary of the Climate Change Convention said in his opening address nearly two weeks ago, "in the middle of every difficulty lies opportunities".



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I am convinced that a better understanding of each others' views has emerged from this year's discussions, laying solid foundations for the crucial year ahead.

And here, we meet again, in Poznan, one year after Bali, to take stock of the progress made and to provide the political impetus to the remaining work as we continue on course to Copenhagen.

Let us ensure that coming out of Poznan we all send a clear message that we remain committed to urgently addressing the climate crisis.

Delaying action now will only make future action more costly and increase our vulnerability to dangerous climate change impacts.

Mr. President,

It is now time to step-up the pace and shift into full negotiating mode in 2009. Nothing else is expected from us, leaving Poznan.

As our discussions on the shared vision in the round table yesterday have shown, there is already broad convergence on a number of elements. Differences remain, but we have had an important political exchange which will now be carried forward into next year.

Portugal considers that a shared vision, firmly based on global solidarity, is an essential, overarching element of our common efforts. It should further specify the ultimate objective of the Convention in a common and shared understanding on putting the world on a pathway towards a low carbon society.



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For us this translates into a reduction of global emissions of, at least, 50% from 1990 levels by 2050, which means that global greenhouse gas emissions will have to peak by 2020 and decline thereafter.

This, Mr. president, we believe to be consistent with the scale and urgency of the climate crisis, as outlined by the IPCC in its fourth assessment report.

Many have referred to the present context of the financial crisis. We echo the words of those that believe this should not side-track us from our goal. We see in these twin challenges – the financial and the climate crisis – an opportunity to contribute to a sustainable world, which stands for a peaceful, more equitable and more developed world.

Mr. President,

Last year Bali provided us with a Roadmap for negotiations. One year later, Poznan must clearly restate the global community's commitment to deliver on the climate challenge in Copenhagen.

As the Secretary General of the UN said yesterday in his address to us, we need to make the coming year the year of climate change.

The eyes of the world are upon us. It is upon us all to ensure that we make way for an agreement in Copenhagen in one year time.

Thank you.

Francisco Nunes Correia

Minister for Environment, Spatial Planning
and Regional Development