

Intervenção do Sr. Ministro do Ambiente e da Ação Climática na COP 26

Speech of the Minister of Environment and climate Action of Portugal

Glasgow, 9th November 2021

President of COP26, Alok Sharma,

Dear Minister and colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the Government of the United Kingdom for the organization of the COP26 and for all the work done in the difficult circumstances we have all been facing since our last COP in Madrid.

There is only one acceptable outcome for COP26: one that commits all Parties to a **higher level of climate action and ambition; one that delivers the complete rulebook for the full implementation of the Paris Agreement.**

Science needs to be heard and integrated into planning and decision-making processes at national, regional and local level.

And for that, National Determined Contributions (NDC) and Long Term Strategies (LTS) should reflect the urgency of delivering the 1,5°C goal including through ambitious short term action and through net-zero commitments by mid-century.

Portugal was the first country in the world to commit to climate neutrality by 2050.

The European Union did so when it made the goal to be climate neutral by 2050 and achieve negative emissions thereafter, through its Climate Law, which approved in the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Leadership lies with those who have phased-out coal; who put a price on carbon; who declined investments in fossil fuels; who invested in renewable energy; and in creating climate resilient, biodiverse territories, with the capacity to enhance carbon sinks, through natural-based solutions.

From this month onwards, **Portugal will end coal power generation.**

In 2020, we reduce our emissions by **32%**, in relation to 2005, and more than **60% of our power** generation was based on renewables. We will continue to invest in renewables, especially in solar energy. These investments are now being complemented with projects based on green hydrogen.

In Paris we were looking at commitments that would put us collectively at 3.1°C. Recent reports were pointing still to 2.7°C.

This is not enough. And not fast enough. The most recent IPCC report clearly shows that.

We all must be aware that the longer we delay climate action, the more intense its effects will be and the greater the costs of inaction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Finalising the **Katowice rulebook** is key to ensure the Paris Agreement's full operative and move forward.

I hope that consensus can be reached on **common time frames of 5-years** for the NDCs of all Parties since it's the most effective way to synchronize the national commitments of the Parties with the Paris cycle of Ambition.

On Article 6, we need a result that allows actions, including voluntary carbon market actions that ensure integrity and environmental ambition and are consistent with the necessary increase in global ambition.

It is crucial to **complete the Framework for Enhanced Transparency**, ensuring that all Parties can report on progress in a comparable, quantified and transparent manner.

Climate finance is key and our priority should be to focus on delivering the current goal. We need to continue work on broadening the donor base, mobilising the private sector, and to achieve a better balance between mitigation and adaptation, in line with the priorities of the receiving countries.

Portugal is committed to **continue financing climate action**, in particular through the **Portuguese Environmental Fund**, in partner countries, such as Portuguese Speaking African Countries.

As a sign of our commitment **we pledge to double climate finance**, allocating a total of 35 million euros by 2030.

COP 26 must deliver **a strong message on carbon pricing**, on **phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies**, and the relevance of aligning public and private financial flows with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, as part of a green recovery.

Dear Colleagues,

We know we will not be able to avoid all impacts of climate change, some of which we are already facing.

We are working on a **National Roadmap for Adaptation**, which aims to update Portugal's climate change vulnerability assessment and define further adaptation action in Portugal for the 21st century.

And we have **submitted our national Adaptation Communication** outlining our current work on adaptation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Six years have passed since the approval of the Paris Agreement and the evidence of climate change is now clearer than ever.

Leadership must be shown inside these rooms, led by the democracies of the world, with the support of the multilateral process. That is the only way to ensure climate justice.

In order not to fail on that leadership we, collectively, need to deliver on the goals that science shows us to be required to tackle climate change.

Not to fail, we should listen to the younger generations and make sure we grant them a healthy planet and a hopeful future.

We are here, we are listening, and we know we must deliver.

And we will not give up this responsibility.