



**Nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19)  
and the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties  
serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 9)  
Warsaw, 19 November 2013**

**Opening address at the high-level segment by  
Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary  
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**

H.E. Mr. Donald Tusk, Prime Minister of Poland  
H.E. Mr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania  
H.E. Mr. BAN Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations  
H.E. Mr. John Ashe, President of the United Nations General Assembly  
H.E. Mr. Marcin Korolec, President of COP 19/CMP 9  
Honourable ministers  
Distinguished delegates  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the opening of the high-level segment of COP 19 and CMP 9.

Allow me once again to express my sincere thanks to the Government and people of Poland for hosting this conference in the lovely and hospitable city of Warsaw.

Honourable ministers, COP 19 is held in the context of a clarion call from science and a compelling call from communities in the Philippines and everywhere else in the world that have been ravaged by the impacts of climate change. COP 19 must be a response of climate action.

It is therefore fitting that Poland's National Stadium presents to the world some of the actions that are already being undertaken on the part of cities, businesses, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

But COP 19 must also show concrete progress at the intergovernmental level, identifying the common ground that will deliver Warsaw success and pave the way for ambition in 2014, a crucial step on the road to Lima and Paris.

We have the strongest case for action in history. The science from the IPCC has never been clearer. The cost of inaction has never been higher. Investment potential has never been greater.

Over the past eight days, your delegates have made much progress. It is now time for you, distinguished Ministers, to lend further guidance to what has been accomplished to date.

Warsaw needs your active involvement to build political momentum for the core deliverables of COP 19:

- Finance that enables the entire world to shift to low-carbon;
- A cornerstone for the loss and damage mechanism;
- Increased ambition in the pre-2020 period; and
- Emerging elements of the new agreement that defines the low-emission, post-2020 economy.

These goals are firmly within our reach. A strong outcome here in Warsaw is a precursor to 2014 as a year of unprecedented collaboration and commitment. A strong outcome here in Warsaw takes us ever closer to successful outcomes at the Secretary-General's 2014 Climate Summit and COP 20 in Lima, Peru.

Excellencies, we will only realize these goals if you focus on what is both feasible and necessary, and work with both intensity and intent. We will only realize these goals if you courageously lead us to a meaningful draft agreement that is based on sound science, equitably enacted and applicable to all.

I know you can. You know you can. So let's do it.

Thank you. *Dziękuję.*

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