**High – Level Roundtable On Climate Ambition**

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Today, the world is facing 3 serious and urgent problems and challenges.

Some of these problems and challenges are new and emerged unexpectedly, such as the coronavirus pandemic and the global economic recession.

Other challenges already existed, but have manifested themselves with greater force and danger, such as climate change and global warming.

These challenges are completely interconnected. But more importantly, we cannot find excuses in the new emergencies, like Covid and the Recession, to neglect or postpone the responsibility we have towards the protection for the environment.

Science has spoken loud and clear. The concentration of greenhouse gases is the highest in the last 800 thousand years. We are being affected by intense heat waves, large floods, severe periods of drought and powerful hurricanes. In addition, the ice at the poles is melting, ocean pollution is increasing and we are suffering from extensive and intense fires and forest destruction.

The youth is rightfully demanding a change of course, as a moral imperative.

Technology and science provide us with new and powerful tools to tackle this issue.

There is no reason to be sceptic or indifferent. We must step up and provide a global response to climate change. It is a real and imminent threat to the very survival of humankind. The time for diagnosis is over. It is time for action.

Climate change is also an economic challenge with social, environmental and moral consequences that must be addressed before it’s irreversible.

Between 1999 and 2018 more than 500.000 people died as a direct result of extreme weather events and the losses were above US$ 3.5 trillion.

This is why finance must be at the core of the global response to climate change. We need to support a sustainable future for the global economy, by including climate change in all our environmental, but also economic and financial policies.

Last year we launched with Finland the Coalition of Ministers of Finance for Climate Action. This coalition now covers 30 per cent of global GDP and will become an important meeting point between macro-fiscal policies, finance, and climate change, in areas so important as carbon pricing.

During the pandemic, where many countries are facing debt, fiscal constraints and social vulnerability, making it more difficult to invest in climate change. However, we must take this opportunity to build resilience and invest in clean infrastructure, including renewable energies.

Chile is fully committed with this task.

We were one of the first 10 countries in the world to declare a new and updated NDC, fulfilling the commitments we made in the Paris Agreement.

We have taken on the commitment to transform Chile into a Carbon Neutral country before 2050, with Zero Net Emissions, by promoting the following actions:

First, through the total closure of coal-fired plants before 2040. Today, 44% of our energy sources are clean and renewable, and by 2030 we will reach 70%. Santiago, our capital, is today the city, outside of China, with most electric buses in the world.

Second, by replacing the fossil fuels in our transportation system with electricity or other clean fuels. By 2040, 100% of our urban public transport will be electric

Third, by increasing the protection of our forests, biodiversity and reforestation.

To successfully fulfil this mission, we are building an Alliance for Climate Ambition, incorporating the State, Private Sector, Civil Society and citizens to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

In this Race to Net Zero we are now 120 countries, 955 companies, 449 cities and 500 universities, covering more than half of the world’s GDP.

Chile’s NDC also includes specific targets for Adaptation, the Ocean, and protection of our forests, circular economy and combatting local pollution. For example, 42% of the Chilean sea and 21% of our land areas are today under special environmental protection.

This was our inspiration throughout COP25. We are working closely with the government of the United Kingdom, as incoming presidency of COP26, to continue in this path, promoting ambition and climate action.

This is the great challenge of our generation. To recover lost time and change the course of history, to ensure the survival and quality of life of human beings on planet earth.