

## **Opening remarks by the Mexican Minister of Environment Mr. Juan Rafael Elvira Quesada**

Honorable Ms. Helle Thorning-Schmidt, Prime Minister of Denmark,  
Honorable Mr. Hwang-sik Kim, Prime Minister of South Korea,  
Honorable new members of the 3GF,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honored to address you again this year at the Second edition of the Global Green Growth Forum, on behalf of President Calderon. He regrets not being with you and sends his best wishes for a successful event.

I thank the government of Denmark for their kind invitation, and congratulate the organizers for succeeding again in gathering leading actors who are paving the way to make inclusive green growth the standard way of life.

The current economic and environmental crises have inspired leading visionaries from all over the world, to launch and pursue innovative initiatives to tackle both crises.

Inclusive green growth offers diverse opportunities for win-win gains from the economic, social and environmental perspectives.

Amongst the different answers, the 3GF stands today as one of the most important forums to pursuit green growth from a public-private approach.

Mexico joined this initiative last year convinced of the great potential of the 3GF. The 3GF has been operational to build up collaborative nets of action for public and private sectors to transit to low

carbon economies. It has also been influential for catalyzing synergies amongst different processes and initiatives, to embrace the path towards green growth.

Mexico's presence in this initiative is a reflection of our belief that through this Forum we build action to fight climate change and transit towards a greener economy.

In December 2010, Mexico hosted the Cancun Climate Change Conferences, which provided an opportunity for the international community to reach crucial agreements such as the formalization of the Green Climate Fund and the fast start financing commitment. COP-16 appealed also to formulate national Low-Emission Development Plans, recognized REDD+, decided to create technological and adaptation instances, and committed to keep the average increase in global temperature below two degrees centigrade.

During its Presidency to the G20 this year, Mexico included inclusive green growth as a priority. Amongst the different outcomes from Los Cabos Summit, we now have:

- a report that incorporates green growth and sustainable development in structural reform agendas and reaffirms our commitment to reduce fossil fuel subsidies;
- methodological packages to help developing countries design their own green policies according to their circumstances; and
- a proposal for a partnership with the private sector to promote financing initiatives for sustainable development.

Mexico is as well an active promoter of other initiatives as the OECD Green Growth Strategy; the UN green economy initiative; the Green Growth Knowledge Platform launched in Mexico City in 2012, and the Green Growth Action Alliance (G2A2) launched by the Business 20 (B20) in Los Cabos, Mexico last June.

Walking firmly towards a green economy in Mexico has been at the center of our National Development Plan 2007-2012, and different public policy instruments have been implemented.

For instance, we have built a strong institutional basis to addressing climate change through the creation of an Inter-ministerial Commission on Climate Change (2005), a Special Program on Climate Change (2009-2012) and lately the enacting of a new legislation that has brought Mexico to the forefront of climate change legal frameworks.

Mexico's General Law on Climate Change coordinates actions from public and private sectors, as well as civil society to tackle this challenge. The law also confirms our target of reducing Green House Gas Emission 30% by 2020, and 50% by 2050 from the 2000 level, conditional to international financial support.

A few days ago, President Calderon announced the finalization of our Fifth National Communication to the UNFCCC. We report to the international community that we are decoupling our greenhouse gases emissions from economic growth: between 1990 and 2000 the Mexican economy grew 2.5% while our emission only grew 1.5%.

The business sector has been key in bringing our greenhouse gas emissions down. Our Leadership for Environmental Competitiveness Program involves the participation of over thirty five hundred companies in eco-efficiency practices. Between 2006 and 2011 these companies avoided 19.6 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, representing 10% of the total emissions from the private sector identified in our Climate Change Program.

One of the most valuable contributions of the 3GF is the richness of bringing together forefront-runners in the promotion of a more sustainable path of growth. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome China, Kenya and Qatar as new partners to this relevant forum. Their participation will enrich our dialogue from a developing country perspective.

Mexico shares and promotes the 3GF vision to boost synergies between forums and processes. Only by adding, combining and coordinating efforts we will accentuate the progress.

I wish you all a very fruitful second 3GF.