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Mitglied des Deutschen Bundestages

Press release

Speech of the member of the Bundestag Adis Ahmetovic - "No backward steps and no standstill, but measurable progress necessary"

Berlin, 11.11.2022

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Speech by Adis Ahmetovic, Member of the Bundestag, on the motion by the SPD, Greens and FDP "Taking the 1.5 degree path - taking loss and destruction due to the climate crisis seriously" and on the Motion of the CDU/CSU "Advancing Climate Protection Internationally, European-wide and in Germany"

- The spoken word applies -

Dear Madam President,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

the climate crisis is one of the greatest challenges in human history. Tackling it is a task for the century.

When we co-signed the Paris climate agreement in 2015, our goal was to give our planet and future generations a real chance. And as a result, it was a success in that sense:

For the first time, 200 nations committed to work together on one thing: To escape a threat to humanity. Despite all the divisions and tensions.

- A low-carbon future in which we reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Phasing out coal and investing in the expansion of climate-friendly technologies.
- More than 100 countries have pledged to stop and reverse deforestation by the end of 2030. I have high hopes for Brazil in particular. With the election victory of "Lula" da Silva, he wants the country to become a pioneer in environmental protection.
- At the EU level, the ambitious Fit-For-55 package of laws was passed, which envisages reducing emissions by at least 55



percent by 2030 compared with 1990 levels and even achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

With the presidency of the G7, various initiatives are also coming from Germany:

- Germany is one of the largest donors to international climate finance, with almost six billion euros annually from its budget. Germany is also working to ensure that the promise of \$100 billion per year in international climate financing is kept.
- An international climate club and a global umbrella against climate risks are to be established for an even more determined fight against climate change.

Together, we got a ball rolling. We are supporting societies and companies in the socio-ecological transformation.

But the bitter truth is also this:

Despite climate agreements and further national efforts to reduce emissions, we are still a long way from reaching our goal. Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore is right when he said earlier this week at the COP27 climate conference: "We have a credibility problem all of us: We're talking and we're starting to act, but we're not doing enough."

Despite progress, many countries, Germany included, have not met the goals established in Paris. Already, global warming is at 1.2 degrees Celsius and we are heading for global warming of 2.5 degrees Celsius if we do not do more.

The serious social and environmental consequences are being felt by people around the world every day. Existential issues are at stake: Extreme weather situations, forest fires, long periods of drought, torrential rain and flooding or devastating storms are not only observed in Pakistan, Australia, the USA or Kenya, but also here in Germany: Whether it is the floods in the Ahr Valley in the far west, the forest fires in the Erzgebirge in the far east, or a series of storms of the century in northern and southern Germany. Some parts of the world are becoming permanently uninhabitable for people, resulting in new migration patterns and an intensification of conflicts around the globe.

This is not made any easier by the fact that we are living in times of declining international cooperation and increasing geopolitical



tensions as well as nationalism and thoughts of imperialism in the world. The war in Ukraine is a painful reminder of this. We are living in a turning point in time, which has led to a radical reorientation of Germany's domestic and foreign policy. This includes, among other things, the reorientation of climate and energy policy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

in view of the critical situation, we cannot afford to take a step backward, but we also cannot afford to stand still. What we need is further measurable progress. It is up to us as Germany:

- We must further intensify our greenhouse gas reduction efforts,
- we need to drive the global expansion of a green hydrogen economy,
- the National Climate Contributions (NDCs) must be adjusted,
- we must work for more biodiversity and the preservation of ecosystems
- and I stress once again that we must keep to the \$100 billion per year for International Climate Finance.

The CDU/CSU certainly means well when it is concerned about energy security in Germany and has been arguing again and again for months - and also in this motion - for an expansion of nuclear energy. However, chancellor Olaf Scholz clearly set out the path in his speech at the World Climate Conference: The future does not lie in nuclear energy, but in the expansion of renewable energy sources!

It is not too late to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees. We are committed to this. The motion by the traffic light coalition is good, the FDP, the Greens and the SPD are doing better together than the previous government - and I would therefore like to urge you here to vote in favor of this motion.

Thank you very much for your attention.