Mr. President,

We gather today because of the necessity to demonstrate our commitment to concrete actions in order to achieve a transformative agreement in Climate Change issues in Paris next year. Climate change is a phenomenon that affects humanity as a whole. We are all vulnerable to its effects and we all contribute, although in different ways, to this latent threat. The presence of more than 130 Heads of State and Government is the clearest indicator of the priority that our States put on creating national and joint solutions. I come from a country that is convinced, since many years ago, that the respect and promotion of Human Rights, including the Right to Development, as a fundamental part of sustainable development, is the appropriate development model to guarantee integral solutions to the necessities and aspirations of social, economic and environmental welfare of all nations. My country believes in the need of working together towards a universal, transformative and binding agreement for all. This agreement must recognize the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. This means that developed countries and the greatest carbon emitters should be encouraged to lead these efforts because they have the capability to cooperate with developing countries such as Costa Rica. For this reason, I want to reaffirm our commitment to becoming a carbon neutral country by 2021; therefore, my government will focus on specific objectives in two strategic areas for national development:

In Transport, my administration will encourage the creation of an articulated transportation network that will include an electric railway system complemented with a new bus system that will only use biofuels. This will permit a substantial decrease in metropolitan traffic flow, revolutionize car culture in my country and will significantly reduce the use of private and public vehicles as well as carbon emissions. This is Mr. President, our main challenge and it will be with no doubt, the most complex, yet the most beneficial. In Energy, due to the effects of climate change on water resources, our capability of hydroelectric production has dramatically diminished. Nonetheless, Costa Rica has been able to produce more than 90% of its power production matrix based on renewable sources. In addition, the Reventazon Hidroelectric Project, one of the most important civil engineering projects in Central America, will be operating by 2016 and will allow Costa Rica to generate 100% of its electricity from renewable sources. Furthermore, Costa Rica continues accelerating the exploration and extraction of geothermal energy in its volcanoes, without disregarding the protection of their national parks and critical ecosystems. Nonetheless. Pallas I and Pailas II projects will provide our country with a backup energy source that will maintain our goal of 100% clean electricity. In addition, one of the first decisions made by this administration was to extend the moratorium on oil extraction until 2021. We believe in the necessity of avoiding serious environmental risks, undertaking detailed cost-benefit analysis of extractive activities and improving the livelihoods of the most vulnerable, in particular indigenous people and rural communities. My Government is committed to the massive development of renewable technologies for domestic use. We believe Costa Rican families must acquire appropriate, affordable and sustainable energy consumption patterns using the best technologies available. These technologies should be cheaper, innovative and accessible to everyone. Similar efforts are being undertaken in public institutions, for which we are designing new strategies of consumption that will result in significant savings of resources and will redefine the public energy-saving strategy. These are complex and difficult goals to achieve, for this reason, it is fundamental that the international community provides support to middle-income countries like Costa Rica. Our efforts must be based in a real international solidarity in order to benefit from a real and effective global alliance. This alliance must not penalize or discourage our progress towards a low emissions development path and the achievement of poverty eradication. Without adequate means of implementation, much of our national efforts are unattainable. If we do not cooperate on the basis of solidarity, we will not succeed. Certainly our actions must be national, but our solutions must be global. Developing countries cannot continue subsidizing emissions from the most polluting countries. The time for talk is over and the time for action is now. Nonetheless, from my perspective, another of our greatest challenges lies in adaptation. We need to promote more responsive agricultural methods and better infrastructure that can cope with changes and withstand extreme weather events like those we are experiencing today. We must also strengthen our environmental, social and human resilience as well as communal organization, particularly those of indigenous peoples, women, rural and coastal populations. Furthermore, we must promote democracy, citizen participation and enhanced respect for Human Rights. I am aware that such actions require resources beyond our current capability. However, the reality is that financing options as well as knowledge and technology transfers from developed countries are increasingly limited and costly. Mr. President, There are five words we should take with us from Lima to Paris: commitment, ambition, cooperation, equity and transparency. Commitment, so that we can achieve reduction targets and establish compensation and adaptation mechanisms to contain global warming. Ambition, to demand the leaders of the most powerful nations to move beyond self-imposed limits, and among other actions, allow middle-income countries to have appropriate environmental funding mechanisms. Cooperation, to permit nations that need it the most, access to advances in technology, innovation and knowledge both traditional and scientific to create a transformative conscience in societies so they can generate their own capacities to meet the challenges that lie ahead. Equity, so that historically responsible as well as biggest emitters assume their responsibility quota in emission reductions and provisions of means of implementation. Transparency, so that individual and collective efforts are measurable on the basis of uniform criteria and have publicly accessible information so that the global society can identify efforts carried out. Thank you