MONIRA AL-MOHIZEA 2014-15 Term 1

ENGT 313 SIMOULTANEOUS TRANSLATION 19 October

**Week: 5**

# Speech 1 - President Obama Speaks at the 2014 Climate Summit

# The President: Mr.President, Mr. Secretary General,

fellow leaders: For all the immediate challenges that

we gather to address this week -- terrorism, instability,

inequality, disease -- there's one issue that will define the

contours of this century more dramatically than any other,

and that is the urgent and growing threat

of a changing climate.

Five years have passed since many of us met in Copenhagen.

And since then, our understanding of climate change

has advanced -- both in the deepening science that says this

once-distant threat has moved "firmly into the present,

" and into the sting of more frequent extreme weather events

that show us exactly what these changes may mean

for future generations.

No nation is immune.

In America, the past decade has been our hottest on record.

Along our eastern coast, the city of Miami now floods

at high tide.

In our west, wildfire season now stretches most of the year.

In our heartland, farms have been parched by the worst

drought in generations, and drenched by the wettest

spring in our history.

A hurricane left parts of this great city dark and underwater.

And some nations already live with far worse.

Worldwide, this summer was the hottest ever recorded --

with global carbon emissions still on the rise.

So the climate is changing faster than our efforts

to address it.

The alarm bells keep ringing.

Our citizens keep marching.

We cannot pretend we do not hear them.

We have to answer the call.

We know what we have to do to avoid irreparable harm.

We have to cut carbon pollution in our own countries

to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

We have to adapt to the impacts that, unfortunately,

we can no longer avoid.

And we have to work together as a global community

to tackle this global threat before it is too late.

We cannot condemn our children, and their children,

to a future that is beyond their capacity to repair.

Not when we have the means -- the technological innovation

and the scientific imagination -- to begin the work

of repairing it right now.

As one of America's governors has said,

"We are the first generation to feel the impact of climate

change and the last generation that can do something about it."

So today, I'm here personally, as the leader of the world's

largest economy and its second largest emitter,

to say that we have begun to do something about it.

The United States has made ambitious investments in clean

energy, and ambitious reductions in our carbon emissions.

We now harness three times as much electricity from the wind

and 10 times as much from the sun as we did when

I came into office.

Within a decade, our cars will go twice as far on a gallon

of gas, and already, every major automaker

offers electric vehicles.

We've made unprecedented investments to cut energy waste

in our homes and our buildings and our appliances,

all of which will save consumers billions of dollars.

And we are committed to helping communities build

climate-resilient infrastructure.

So, all told, these advances have helped create jobs,

grow our economy, and drive our carbon pollution to its lowest

levels in nearly two decades -- proving that there does

not have to be a conflict between a sound environment

and strong economic growth.

Over the past eight years, the United States has reduced our

total carbon pollution by more than any other nation on Earth.

But we have to do more.

Last year, I issued America's first Climate Action Plan

to double down on our efforts.

Under that plan, my administration is working with

states and utilities to set first-ever standards to cut

the amount of carbon pollution our power plants can dump

into the air.

And when completed, this will mark the single most

important and significant step the United States

has ever taken to reduce our carbon emissions.

Last week alone, we announced an array of new actions in

renewable energy and energy efficiency that will save

consumers more than $10 billion on their energy bills

and cut carbon pollution by nearly 300 million metric

tons through 2030.

That's the equivalent of taking more than 60 million cars

off the road for one year.

I also convened a group of private sector leaders who've

agreed to do their part to slash consumption of dangerous

greenhouse gases known as HFCs -- slash them

80 percent by 2050.

Link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmz6srlnur8>