



## **Burgenland Declaration on Action for Climate Empowerment**

**NOTING** that the effects of human-induced climate change, predicted more than a century ago and anticipated with ever-increasing certainty since then, are now evident, with consequences around the world.

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that the adverse impacts of climate change are a common concern, leading to i.a. extinction of many species, population migrations, political crises, economic costs and pronounced changes in the land surface and ocean circulation.

**EMPHASIZING** the need to educate and inform people appropriately about climate change.

**CONSCIOUS** of improving awareness and understanding of climate change, and creating solutions to facilitate access to information on a changing climate are key to winning public support for climate-related policies, as well to foster the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions.

**RECOGNIZING** that building a climate-friendly, low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient society and economy is a big challenge, but also a huge opportunity.

**NOTING** that in Paris in 2015, countries committed to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, i.a. by drastically reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and by increasing resilience to the adverse impacts of our changing climate.

**STRESSING** that enhancing success will require ambitious action in all sectors and at all levels of society, which in turn requires effective participation by informed, educated, diverse constituencies.

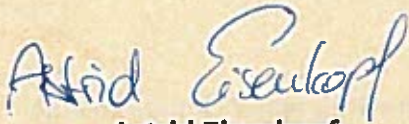
**AFFIRMING** that the emissions gap between the goals of the Paris Agreement and continued rising emissions cannot be closed without also closing the education, training and knowledge gap on climate change – the gap between scientific findings and the understanding of society about climate change and its impacts, and the energy transition and lifestyle changes it demands.

**RECALLING** that this fact was recognized explicitly in Article 12 of the Paris Agreement (Action for Climate Empowerment) and Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

We, the undersigned,

AGREE that the fulfilment of the Action for Climate Empowerment agenda and its six elements – education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information and international and regional cooperation – are fundamental to the success of the Paris Agreement.

DECLARE our determination and commitment to make Action for Climate Empowerment fundamental in the planning and actions of our government, organization, agency, company or personal or public enterprise, and to support and encourage others to do the same, for the sake of protecting earth's climate for present and future generations.



**Astrid Eisenkopf**

Minister of the Regional Government of Burgenland



**Jürgen Schneider**

Director General for Climate, Ministry of Sustainability and Tourism



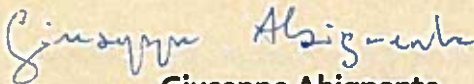
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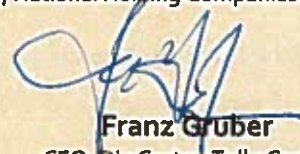
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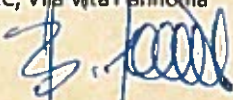
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