



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND WATER ADMINISTRATION
THE MINISTER**

***18th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations
Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 18) and the 8th
Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the
Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8)***

Doha – Qatar

6/12/2012

Distinguished President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Addressing climate change challenges in our country has turned into a matter of immediacy.

Historic climate variations and recent floods and droughts demonstrate the sensitivity of social, economic and environmental systems to climate and highlight the urgent need to integrate adaptation and mitigation measures into the National Development Strategy.

Albania has constantly worked to live up to its obligations, as a Non Annex-1 country, and implementing an overall environmental protection policy.



Our country is undergoing a comprehensive process of reforms, as a result of EU membership agenda and a very ambitious legislation is in process all of which takes climate change in consideration.

We share our firm believe to combat climate change jointly as a region rather than from the perspective of a small country as Albania is.

On 21 September 2012, ministers for the environment of Albania, Turkey, Macedonia, Montenegro and Kosovo agreed in Tirana, upon the regional cooperation opportunities for a strategic/regional approach to climate change aiming at:

- Exchange of methodologies and experience sharing in macroeconomic and dynamic systems modelling, statistics and indicators, development of climate related policies, strategies and measures;
- Encouraging initiatives to work together on the harmonisation and approximation of EU legislation;
- Sharing of national reports and progress;
- Design and implementation of coordinated communication strategies;
- Prepare for donors' consideration and implement regional projects to combat climate change.

Albania has submitted the 1st and 2nd National Communications.

The 3rd one has also started, considering them not just as tools for UNFCCC reporting, but also for mainstreaming climate change into national planning process and programming through mobilization of new resources.

To promote use of renewable energy and take advantage of the country potentials, Albania is currently developing the market for solar water heating systems, wind energy, biomass and bio-fuels in addition to the hydropower. We are proud to use nearly 100 % of our generated electricity.

The undergoing interventions vary from policy level of preparation of the new Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency laws to National Action Plans for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency 2009-2020, fully in line with EU directives and requirements of Energy Community Treaty, with set targets for 2020 of 38 % and 9%, respectively, to practical projects on the ground.

Further on, Albania has supported the development of public and private sector capacities to access carbon finance by:

- (i) Creating the legal and institutional framework for carbon finance
- (ii) Building in-country capacities for identification, implementation and resource mobilization for greenhouse gas reduction projects, eligible for Clean Development Mechanism and other carbon market mechanisms.



As result a Clean Development Mechanism structure is established and a carbon policy document is in place aiming at positioning Albania in a competitive manner in the global carbon markets, in general, and the CDM in particular.

In terms of adaptation, a pilot initiative is being implemented in Albania with UN support that resulted in integration of adaptation measures in local and regional development plans, meanwhile implementation of few adaptation measures is in process.

Supported by WB, impacts of climate change in short to medium term in the energy and agriculture sectors are studied and due measures are designed as part of the sector-ial development strategies.

Health related impacts are also considered and an action plan supported by WHO is on the way to its implementation.

A new National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) for 2013-2020 is being drafted. In this framework, there is a strong intention to mainstream climate change in sector strategies and introduce 'Low emission development strategies' (LEDS) as a path to sustainable development.

The LEDs approach will have a long term component that includes strategic vision, and a short and medium-term component that lists



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specific actions to be undertaken to get on a low carbon pathway through National Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

Throughout such identification will be important to:

- Address the mitigation and adaptation policies necessary to successfully manage climate change challenge and at the same time provide opportunities for formulation of comprehensive approaches to human and economic development;
- Establish of a bottom-up, country led, national mechanisms to support low emission, climate resilient national development plans accompanied by sound national, local, eco system based investment choices and robust national policies and regulatory systems as well as implementation systems.

As a prospective EU country and a non Annex 1 country, we are much interested in the outcome of the Doha negotiations specifically on:

- keeping intact the package of decisions agreed last year in Durban to take forward all of its elements, in order to move a step closer to the 2015 Agreement and make progress on climate action in the meantime;
- drafting and adoption by 2015 of a new global climate agreement applying to all countries, and the identification of



ways to raise the ambition of global greenhouse gas emission cuts between now and the end of this decade;

- Doha should also deliver on a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol starting on 1 January 2013, including the rules needed for its implementation. In the meantime, as a transition towards the new global Agreement, agreeing a ratifiable amendment to the Kyoto Protocol that enables the second period to go ahead.
- Doha should also adopt the mode of operation and the procedures for the new mechanisms like the Green Climate Fund, Technology Transfer, Adaptation Fund, etc., to enable developing countries adapt and curb their emissions.

Dear participants,

Concluding, let me reiterate Albania's commitment to address climate change issues, and offer its modest contribution towards carbon emissions reductions.

We remain confident that the Parties will not miss the chance of enabling Doha deliver its objectives to speed up global action towards a low-emission future where everyone has the chance of a sustainable life!

Thank you for your attention!