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High-Level Segment of COP30

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National Statement of Albania

delivered by the Albanian Ambassador in Brazil, Mr. Genti Bendo

Honourable President, excellencies, and distinguished delegates.

As a developing country, Albania acknowledges that our individual actions alone cannot alter the global trajectory of emissions. Nevertheless, because of our reliance on hydropower, we are proud to be among the few countries that produce no CO₂ emissions from energy generation. However, there are hazards associated with this accomplishment because our reliance on climate-sensitive resources exposes us to increasing hydrological variability at a time when energy demand is rising, necessitating innovation and diversity.

In this spirit, Albania has embarked on a transformative path toward a resilient and low-carbon future. Our government is in the process of revising the National Determined Contribution to include a more ambitious target, reaffirming our strong commitment to the Paris Agreement. Before COP30, we submitted our First Biennial Transparency Report to the UNFCCC, contributing to the Global Stocktake by demonstrating progress in mitigation, adaptation, and finance. Moreover, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) - a comprehensive national framework for climate resilience - is now under final consultation and will be approved by December 2025.

Adaptation remains central to Albania's climate policy. To date, eight municipalities have adopted Local Adaptation Plans, and fourteen others have initiated the drafting process, translating the NAP into concrete, place-based actions. These local efforts mirror the government's vision to ensure that climate adaptation is rooted in every region and community.

Our approach extends to the rural sector, where the Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project, implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and supported by the World Bank, is strengthening climate-smart agriculture. Through a USD 70 million investment, it enhances irrigation and drainage infrastructure, supports sustainable farming practices, and empowers farmers to manage climate risks more effectively. The project is helping build a more competitive and climate-resilient agricultural system across Albania.

Complementing these efforts, the ALBAdapt Project is modernising Albania's early-warning systems and building community-based resilience mechanisms, prioritising the protection of vulnerable groups—low-income families, women, children, and the elderly—by ensuring access to timely climate information and adaptive services. These initiatives uphold our citizens' economic, social, and cultural rights, even amid climate-induced challenges.

We are also advancing our forestry and ecosystem restoration agenda, a key pillar of our green-growth strategy. The government has launched afforestation pilot projects using drone technology—a first in the region—allowing large-scale tree-planting in degraded areas with efficiency and precision. These nature-based solutions strengthen carbon sinks while preserving biodiversity and creating green jobs.

Energy transformation remains another cornerstone of Albania's climate and development agenda. Our country continues to expand renewable energy generation beyond hydropower, with growing investments in solar and wind. The innovative floating solar power plant, utilising state-of-the-art technology, is expected to generate 18.8 GWh annually, serving as a model for clean energy innovation across the Balkans. Furthermore, three new wind farm projects with a combined capacity of 222.6 MW are expected to become operational by 2027, marking a decisive step toward energy diversification and resilience.

Sustainability is not only about technology—it is also about protecting our natural heritage. In 2023, Albania declared the Vjosa River Europe's first Wild River National Park, a milestone in nature-based development. Within a year, the region has flourished through sustainable tourism, empowering local communities and attracting young people back to their roots. The Vjosa stands today as a symbol of hope and resilience, proving that conservation and economic growth can thrive together.

However, we recognise that the path ahead requires collective global effort. For our initiatives to achieve their full potential, access to climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity building remains essential. We therefore call upon developed nations to honour and amplify their financial commitments under the Paris Agreement.

In conclusion, Albania's story is one of ambition, innovation, and partnership—anchored in tradition yet driven by the vision of a sustainable future. Let us unite in delivering our commitments and in building a world that future generations will be proud to inherit.

Thank you.