

Statement of Republic of Azerbaijan
27th Session of Conference of Parties to UNFCCC
November 6-18, 2022
Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt

Mr. President,

Excellences,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the host country, Arab Republic of Egypt and the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, for their hospitality and excellent organization.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Republic of Azerbaijan contributes only 0.15% of the global greenhouse gas emissions, our country has taken ambitious target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030 compared to 1990 as a contribution to global initiatives to mitigate the impact of climate change. Furthermore, the last year in Glasgow we have set the new target of 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. We are making steady efforts towards achievement of these targets.

Our new strategy titled "Azerbaijan – 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development" specifically envisages reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The actions under this strategy are fully aligned with international initiatives on climate change and its implementation will directly contribute to the fulfillment of our international commitments and achievement of our goals.

At the moment, we are undertaking strong mitigation activities, notably increasing the share of renewable energy sources in Azerbaijan's total installed electricity capacity from the current 17% to 30% by 2030, as well as energy efficiency measures, transition to low-emission transport and introduction of alternative solutions in the urban transport system, application of low-carbon clean technologies in the industrial sector, improvement of the waste management system, increasing of forests and green areas. Our relevant activities will inevitably be intensified in the upcoming years.

Adverse impacts of climate change causes several consequences in our country such as shortage of water resources, increase in drought, change in precipitation regime and its overall decrease, falling productivity in agriculture, change of coastline of the Caspian Sea level as a result of fluctuations, increasing health concerns of population, drawbacks in fighting forest fires.

Apart from these, hot and dry winds have increased up to 14 times in the last 30 years in Azerbaijan. Due to the decrease in precipitation, the drought lasts longer and become more severe. On the other hand, in some regions monthly level of precipitation falls in a short period of time. As a result, the number of floods in our country has increased significantly.

In order to enable preparedness to climatic hazards, the establishment of an early warning system has been launched in Azerbaijan. Modern radar systems have been put into operation, automated hydrometeorological stations, and modern marine stations have been installed in the Caspian Sea for the purpose of real-time detection of atmospheric phenomena. It is planned to continue these works and fully automate the network in order to totally cover the territory of the country with the early warning system.

I would like to emphasize that the liberation of Azerbaijani territories from almost three decades-long Armenian occupation revealed the full extent of terrible destruction and ecocide in the region committed by Armenia. During the occupation, the natural resources of our country were looted and unique ecosystems were destroyed. Ongoing massive pollution of our country's transboundary rivers by industrial wastewaters of Armenia hinders the efforts made by Azerbaijan for the sustainable management of water resources, which are decreasing every year due to climate change, and also poses a great threat to the ecosystem of the region as a whole. Azerbaijan is a downstream country, and we strongly believe that regional cooperation with neighboring countries in the field of sustainable management of transboundary rivers will contribute to the protection of shared water resources and meantime, to achieving 6th Sustainable Development Goal.

Today, we are undertaking the large-scale post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and reintegration of the liberated territories. These activities are based on the climate-friendly, environmentally clean technologies, "smart" and "green" approaches. These approaches sets a strong basis for the liberated areas to become "Net Zero Emission" zone by 2050. The innovative initiatives and incentives launched in the liberated territories as the establishment of "green energy" zone, "green" agriculture, "green" transport, "smart" cities, "smart" villages and the reforestation of thousands

hectares of land will altogether contribute to the overall mitigation and adaptation efforts both regionally and globally and transform these territories into one of the 'green' regions.

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan remains committed to the mitigation of climate change and implementation of adaptation activities. As a strong demonstration of our resolve in this process, we supported a set of global and regional initiatives launched during COP27.

It is obvious that no country on this planet is able to act alone to solve climate change problem. The only way to achieve positive results in reducing the impact on climate change is the consolidation of efforts of each and every country to ensure safe and resilient future.

In this regard, I would like to emphasize the raising need to increase international support such as sharing of best practices, technology transfer, technical support, capacity building and awareness raising activities.

At the same time, I would like to call on each party to strengthen international cooperation, act responsibly on transboundary issues and use every opportunity which may lead to development of regional interaction among countries.

Thank you for your attention.