Ολομέλεια (3’)

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

The Republic of Cyprus, a sovereign, equal and independent UN Member State, comes to Antalya with a clear message: the climate crisis demands political leadership, collective responsibility and, above all, decisive action.

COP 31 comes at a critical juncture. The scientific evidence is clear: our collective efforts remain insufficient to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

We must therefore accelerate emissions reductions, advance the transition away from fossil fuels, triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency improvements by 2030. We must move beyond declarations and focus on implementation, investment, adequate climate finance, and a just transition.

For Cyprus, an island in the Eastern Mediterranean, the consequences of climate change — water scarcity, extreme heat, desertification, and severe wildfires — are already our lived reality. Adaptation and resilience are immediate national priorities.

During its recent Presidency of the Council of the European Union, in the first half of this year, Cyprus placed particular emphasis on advancing the implementation of the Union's common climate commitments, and we remain committed to carrying this effort forward.

Mr. President,

Climate change transcends politics and does not recognize borders. Addressing climate change therefore presents an important opportunity to strengthen regional cooperation. Cyprus attaches strategic importance to deepening partnerships across the Middle East and Gulf in water management, renewable energy, and civil protection.

We are actively promoting this vision through the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative. Bringing together 10 partner countries across our region, this initiative unites governments and over 200 regional scientific experts. Together, we work to strengthen our collective capacity for adaptation, mitigation, and resilience through practical transboundary responses and regional early warning systems.

Another concrete manifestation of our commitment to regional cooperation is the Cyprus Regional Aerial Firefighting Station. Following a joint initiative with Jordan, it was established earlier this year with European Commission support. In bridging European civil protection resources with regional assets and hosting specialized firefighting crews in Cyprus, it enhances our collective capacity to rapidly respond to and extinguish severe wildfires across our shared region.

Excellencies,

The success of COP 31 must be measured by the effectiveness of our actions on the ground. Let us make Antalya a turning point: from ambition to implementation, and from shared challenges to shared opportunities.

The climate crisis knows no borders. Our response must know no divisions. Let us act together to secure a safer future for all.