

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all who have been involved in the preparation of the COP29.

We live in an era of intersecting crises, with climate change at the forefront. Delays only amplify its impacts, as stronger heatwaves, floods, and wildfires underscore the toll on communities, economies, and nature.

We must raise our ambition and act decisively, with urgency that truly reflects the scale of the challenge.

Climate action is both a responsibility and an opportunity to drive innovation, build resilience, and secure a thriving planet for future generations. The worldwide shift towards a clean, fossil fuel-free economy must continue while restoring and protecting nature. It is crucial to keep expanding the global proportion of renewable energy and advancing low-emission technologies, and jointly commit to bending the curve of biodiversity loss. With fair and inclusive approach, we can achieve a sustainable future that benefits everyone.

Estonia is making significant progress in transitioning from oil shale energy. Despite our small size, we are proud to be among the top four EU countries in terms of the share of renewable energy in our energy

mix and by 2030 Estonia aims to generate as much renewable electricity as our country consumes. This reflects our commitment to a cleaner, more sustainable future.

The importance of joint action and solidarity in co-creating solutions for those most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change is clear. I would like to emphasise that the EU and its Member States are the biggest contributors to climate finance, also to adaptation, with a particular focus on vulnerable countries. We are and remain stable partners in a dynamic world.

We must keep in mind the countries whose environment and economies have been severely impacted by war. We must support them in moving towards their climate goals even though the responsibility for war-related climate impacts should rest with the aggressor. We, as a global community, have an essential role to play. We emphasize the need to increase our contributions to the restoration of Ukraine's valuable and unique environment, ensuring that the Ukrainians feel continuous support and solidarity of their international partners and friends.

Solutions to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions are already within our reach. Let us put them to use, as the future of our children depends on it. Only together, we have the power to create a sustainable world for generations to come.

Thank you!