

National Statement by Simonas Gentvilas, Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, at the COP29 meeting

Fellow leaders,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the last decade, every corner of the globe has been affected by the **destructive consequences of climate change**. And yet today, despite all the warning signs, the global community is far from reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Our meeting represents another opportunity to act. A good start would be transitioning away from fossil fuels by tripling global renewable energy capacity and doubling energy-saving efforts by 2030, as agreed last year in Dubai. The first progress assessment shows that our collective efforts were not enough. We can, and must, do better!

My country, Lithuania, has already chosen ambitious green transition. We are following through with a clear commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at least 70 per cent by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, and become climate-neutral by 2050.

By 2030, Lithuania's national electricity grid will turn green, with the share of electricity from renewable energy sources reaching 100 per cent. Our total installed solar and wind power, having more than quadrupled since 2020, is expected to more than double by 2026. Share of renewable energy in our heating sector will also reach 100 per cent by 2050.

Today, Lithuania calls for **ambitious and balanced outcome here in Baku**, which means implementing **all** the elements of the Global Stocktake Decision. It will be crucially important for the international community to increase mitigation ambition in line with the 1,5°C temperature goal. We must also move towards a long-term resilience and reach agreement on New

Collective Quantified Goal on climate finance. This goal should be realistic and closely linked to the mitigation efforts of every single country.

The quantum of the goal must be linked to an expanded group of contributors, reflecting the evolution of countries' economic capabilities and increasing shares of global greenhouse gas emissions, including present ones.

Finally, I also encourage the international community to address enormous environmental damage, caused by Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine. Lithuania supports establishment of an international platform that would make Russia accountable for the consequences of its actions, including damage to the environment.

Thank you!