

PRESIDENT OF MONTENEGRO MILO ĐUKANOVIĆ

World Leaders Summit, UNFCCC Conference COP26
1 November 2021, Glasgow, United Kingdom

Your Excellences,

It is a great honour to address you all on behalf of Montenegro.

This year's COP26, organized in the circumstances of the pandemic, is a great achievement. I would therefore first like to thank the host – the Government of the United Kingdom. This is yet another confirmation of the fact that, if we respect the rules and strict restrictions, if we are willing to sacrifice the comfort we are used to, and if we do it together with solidarity, we can achieve our goal.

I believe it is the best path to ensure the most effective response to climate change. Through common responsibility, solidarity and cooperation – through multilateralism.

International public has high expectations.

Everything that we have done so far has not been sufficient to prevent increase of emissions. Climate change and loss of biodiversity are existential threats. Devastating effects of the pandemic make the situation additionally complex.

Warming of our planet is faster than we hoped, and it is only human hand that can make the move to slow that process down.

National responsibility and responsibility to global community lead us to do what we have to do and what we have already committed to achieve – save the Planet and ensure more secure, greener and more sustainable future.

We confirmed our last year's climate ambition: Montenegro submitted its updated nationally determined contribution to emission reduction of 35% by 2030.

Still, we are here today to show our willingness to go beyond what we know we can: to confirm that we are ready and that we have faith to go faster and to be more demanding for common benefit.

Montenegro undertook to share the climate ambition and to be climate neutral together with the EU by 2050. Integration into EU is the strategic course of our country, and Montenegro will do everything to succeed.

- By the end of 2021 we will update emissions inventory in line with the new methodology of the Inter-governmental Panel.
- By the end of 2023 we will finalize the first draft of the National Energy and Climate Plan.

- Early in 2024 we will complete the National Adaptation Plan.
- We will intensify our work on the adoption of the Low-Carbon Development Strategy and join the group of states that actively plan and define policies and measures for reduction and mitigation of climate change.
- With the next update of the nationally determined contribution, we will go a step further. We believe that it will include additional reduction of 5%, which will be the total of 40%.

We want Montenegro to be a regional role model for successful green transition.

We believe that it is possible to achieve climate change and energy goals, development goals and European integration goals at the same time.

I am here to express our clear determination and commitment.

The political will that we are confirming here today has to be translated into a prompt climate action. This is the last opportunity to put things under control and we cannot afford to waste it.