

National statement
Montenegro

Esteemed President – Designate, dear world leaders, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a profound honour to participate on behalf of Montenegro in this distinguished gathering. COP29 is taking place at a crucial time.

The data from the UNs Agencies that 2024 is on track to be hottest year on record as global warming temporarily hits 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is no surprise.

The negative consequences of the climate change are increasingly impacting communities worldwide, with Montenegro being no exception, thus underscoring the urgent need for climate action.

As one of the earliest signatories of the Paris Agreement, Montenegro has, over the past decades, established a comprehensive legislative and institutional framework to support green policies.

Since the early 1990s, Montenegro's commitment to aligning national policies with international sustainability standards has been evident;

especially when the country became the first nation to establish its status as an ecological state within its Constitution, pledging to integrate environmental considerations across all areas of national governance.

Although our share in global CO₂ emissions is minimal (0.009%) and Montenegro's contribution to environmental goals may seem modest in a global context, this does not exempt us from the responsibility to contribute to collective efforts towards carbon neutrality.

As an EU membership candidate, Montenegro aligns its policies with those of the EU, and as such we have committed to sharing the climate ambition expressed in the European Green Agenda for the Western Balkans and to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

Through our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), Montenegro has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

As the goal is assessed to have been already achieved, the country is planning to raise the target to 55%, while the policy makers are actively exploring ways to further enhance this goal.

In parallel, Montenegro is actively investing in renewable energy infrastructure, including the development of wind farms and solar energy panels, while the plans for doubling the capacity of the undersea electricity connection with Italy is being planned, thus positioning Montenegro as a unique linkage between the Balkan and Italian electricity systems.

The country is also accelerating the implementation of energy efficiency initiatives, especially within public institutions, and these efforts are being supported by major international financial organizations operating within the country and the region.

National statement
Montenegro

On top of this, the EU funding has enabled Montenegro to start on a wider scale energy efficiency programmes supporting private households.

These actions are strengthening country's efforts towards boosting nation-wide energy efficiency.

Montenegro has also emerged as a regional leader in innovative financing mechanisms for sustainable development.

Building on existing institutions like the Eco Fund and Innovation Fund, the country has in partnership with the UN Office in Montenegro introduced the Sustainable Development Goals Acceleration Fund, creating a unique and powerful tool for fostering partnerships that represent a new generation of financing aimed at expediting the achievement of the sustainable development agenda.

The Fund's success is largely due to Montenegro's national contribution which stands for the highest per capita in the region, complemented by bilateral donations from partner countries and the open opportunities for private sector involvement.

This collaborative approach has made the Fund an excellent platform for advancing the objectives of the 2030 SDGs Agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On the path to carbon neutrality, we must remain committed to a just transition.

To this end, Montenegro has been developing a Just Transition Roadmap to maximize benefits and minimize socioeconomic risks in the green economy transformation.

Dear colleagues,

Time is the most precious resource at our disposal, and every day counts as crucial in our collective pursuit of a climate-resilient economy.

Collaboration is essential in this endeavour. I urge us all to leave this event with a renewed sense of commitment and a genuine determination to act.

Montenegro remains steadfast in its commitment to achieving the goals of carbon-neutrality, driven by the spirit of shared effort and solidarity.

Thank you.