



STATEMENT

by H.E. Ms. Maia SANDU, President of the Republic of Moldova

**at the First Part of the High-Level Segment for Heads of State and Government
of the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2024 (COP29)**

(Baku, November 12, 2024, 3 min)

Distinguished Delegates,

It is an honour to address you on behalf of the people of the Republic of Moldova. My deep gratitude goes to his excellency Ilham Aliyev and the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting COP29 in Baku.

President Aliyev, your leadership in bringing COP to our region shows true readiness to lead on the global stage when it matters most.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Moldova exemplifies the injustice of climate change: while contributing a mere 0.03% of global emissions, we are Europe's most vulnerable country to climate impacts.

For Moldova, climate change is not a distant threat; it is a present reality impacting our daily lives, economy, and especially our rural communities who depend heavily on agriculture. Rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, and erratic rainfall are reducing yields in crops like wheat and corn, while Moldova's vineyards - central to our economy and heritage - face new challenges. Access to water is increasingly strained, affecting both agriculture and daily life.

These are all things we didn't cause but for which we pay a high price.

Small and developing economies worldwide share this burden **often lacking the resources to recover.**

This underscores the urgent need for an **equitable, accessible climate finance system that prioritizes vulnerable nations** and builds resilience. It's only fair that we count on support from major economies.

To expedite climate action, **existing funds and programs must also cut through their bureaucratic delays, which can span years, delaying essential measures.**

In Moldova, we are doing our part. **Despite multiple crises due to Russia's brutal war against Ukraine, which impacts our economy significantly,** we launched a National afforestation program – a decade-long effort to expand forest cover by 4.5% over 150,000 hectares, showing our commitment to a greener future.

Despite limited resources, we pursue this goal for the health of our planet and future generations, improving air quality, biodiversity and land.

The **recent global energy crisis spurred us into swift action.**

We are reducing consumption through energy efficiency and expanding renewables.

Yet afforestation and decarbonization are costly, and with greater support, we could accelerate this existential work.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Time is running out - global warming won't wait until other crises are resolved. History will judge us if we fail to act, risking vast areas of our planet becoming unlivable. Our solidarity today will shape the Earth's future.

Thank you!