

Minister of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, Sergiu Lazarencu:

Distinguished Delegates, Dear Colleagues,

It is an honor to be here today, participating in this important discussion on one of the most crucial aspects of our global climate agenda – the "just transition." First, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan for hosting this significant global climate event.

A just transition is vital for equitably transforming economies in response to climate change. It is crucial to align climate action with social policies, particularly under the Paris Agreement, to balance environmental goals with socio-economic needs. Prioritizing inclusivity, equity, and human rights, a just transition must be tailored to national contexts and capacities. Climate policies should address both environmental targets and the socio-economic challenges faced by the most vulnerable.

Moldova strongly supports the EU's climate neutrality policy and the comprehensive approach of the European Green Deal to create a greener economy while ensuring that those affected by the transition are adequately supported. In line with these efforts, Moldova has been proactive in increasing its ambition for GHG emissions reductions, updating its NDCs, and committing to a sustainable, low-carbon future. Moldova is currently revising its NDCs and is determined to contribute meaningfully to global efforts under the Paris Agreement.

Moldova, though a low emitter, is highly vulnerable to climate change, with a 1.2°C temperature rise causing more frequent droughts, floods, and extreme weather. These impacts have devastated agriculture and ecosystems, leading to economic losses. In response, Moldova's National Climate Change Adaptation Program targets key sectors like agriculture, energy, health, and water management, but its success

depends on adequate resources, financial support, and access to advanced technologies for enhanced resilience and risk management.

International cooperation is essential in achieving a just transition, especially for developing countries. It is not enough to provide financial support; it is critical that these countries also have the technical and institutional capacity to design and implement their own climate action plans. Moldova's commitment to climate resilience is underscored by our desire to build this capacity and share knowledge with partners.

Accountability and robust monitoring frameworks are also essential. These systems must track both climate and social outcomes to ensure that the commitments made are translated into tangible results. We must also view climate action not as an additional burden but as an opportunity for economic growth, job creation, and social development. Stronger partnerships with the private sector will play a pivotal role in driving the transition through investments, technological innovation, and green finance. Public-private partnerships are key to supporting the just transition, especially in vulnerable and developing countries.

Finally, as we look ahead, it is crucial to recognize that a just transition is not just about reducing emissions, but about ensuring that all people, regardless of their background or geographic location, have an opportunity to thrive in a low-carbon, sustainable economy. In this regard, Moldova remains committed to working with international partners to ensure that our climate actions are inclusive, equitable, and resilient.

Together, we can forge a path to a sustainable, low-carbon future that benefits everyone. Thank you.