

National Statement of the Republic of Serbia
delivered by H.E. Ms. Katarina Lalic Smajevic, Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Serbia in the Kingdom of Spain
COP25 High-level segment

Mr. President,

I represent a country that is more affected by climate change than most places on the Earth. Depending on the climate scenario, the temperature in Serbia, by the end of the century, could be 3 to 5 degrees Celsius higher, compared to the mid-20th century. In the future, we can expect further temperature and precipitation record breaks, which will have a devastating impact on the people and economy of Serbia. Since 2000 extreme heat waves, droughts and floods have cost us more than 5 billion Euros.

Limiting the increase of mean global temperature by the end of the century by 2°C would lead to a loss of Serbia's GDP of 4.53% by mid-century, which can be significantly reduced by investing in the adaptation to climate change. However, the process of low carbon transformation into a climate-adapted society can additionally endanger the already vulnerable groups of the population through the loss of jobs.

Nonetheless, the most expensive scenario for Serbia is to ignore the climate related costs in its strategic decisions. System costs of “non-action” are several tens of billion euros higher than the additional system costs of action under any mitigation scenario.

Climate change poses a significant risk for further development of Serbia as was expressed in our NDCs. This risk largely depends on the increase in the mean global temperature, which cannot be significantly influenced by Serbia individually.

I am proud to announce that we are about to adopt the Law on Climate Change as well as our Low carbon development strategy with the Action plan, which were developed with the technical and financial assistance of the EU. The aim is to set up a system for mitigation and adaptation in line with the Paris Agreement and our obligations as a candidate country to the EU. Our future Low carbon development strategy up to 2050 sets a vision for a long-term climate neutral and climate resilient society, to be achieved on a socially fair and cost-effective way, with positive effects on environment and sustainable development. The Action plan up to 2030, defines the policies and measures for cost effective and socially fair pathways to our climate vision as well as promotion of transition to net zero, climate neutral and climate resilient economy and society.

We submitted our NDCs among the first ten countries in the world, and the first in the region for which we are particularly proud. **I am even more proud to announce that the revised NDCs will be more ambitious, with our target set to increase more than three times.**

Finally, let me reiterate that the Republic of Serbia is ready to cooperate. We are looking forward to the completion of the Paris Agreement and we are hopeful that the climate ambition will be increased and Paris Agreement fulfilled.