

COP27 – Formal Address
Sharm el Sheik 15/16 November 2022

Mr. President, Dear Colleagues,

- First and foremost, allow me to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the Government of Egypt for organising an excellent conference, despite the challenges we all face today worldwide.
- We are all aware of the fact that the mean global temperature increased by 1.1 degree Celsius compared to the preindustrial level. However, the average temperature increase in the Republic of Serbia has already reached 1.8 degrees. Hence, the minimum material damage in Serbia in the period from 2000 to 2020 is estimated to have exceeded 6.8 billion euros. More than 70% of the damage was caused by droughts and high temperatures due to climate change and extreme weather events.
- We take seriously our task to prepare the Republic of Serbia for all challenges and concurrently contribute to the global fight against climate change.
- Therefore, I am especially pleased to be able to announce that this year in August, the Republic of Serbia submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat its revised Nationally Determined Contribution, thus confirming not only our commitment to curbing the greenhouse gas emissions, but also pledging to reducing our greenhouse gas emissions by 33.3% by 2030 and rising our climate ambition by more than three times compared to our first NDC.
- Our vision is a prosperous and climate-resilient Serbia. This vision forms the backbone of our future Low Carbon Development Strategy, thus paving our way towards decarbonization for the whole society. The future Strategy will lay the foundations for Serbia with cleaner, reliable and renewable energy sources and increased energy efficiency, and ensure resilient, protected forests and nature, including the integration of nature-based innovative solutions.
- In line with our vision, we are also intensively working on our first Climate Change Adaptation Programme, which will strengthen the Republic of Serbia in terms of climate risk and its assessment, as well as adaptation to climate change. The program will improve measures in the most vulnerable sectors, such as agriculture, water management, forestry and human health.
- As reliable partners, we are committed not only to the Paris Agreement, but also to joining the European Union. As the largest economy in the Western Balkans, we confirmed our commitment to achieving EU Green Deal targets by signing the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans.
- We must not forget that transition to a low-carbon society must be just and fair, leaving no one behind. Our need to act is supported by estimation that the cost of inaction would amount to €53 billion, which is more expensive than our long-term, low-carbon transformation.
- Dear ministers, respected delegates, I invite you to work jointly for the well-being of current and future generations. That is why we need to show solidarity.
- The Sharm el Sheikh conference represents a key chance to adopt the decisions that will much influence the framework of action as regards the most important aspect of our life - the preservation of our common home - the planet. Thank you.