

**Statement by Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia at the UN Climate Change Conference 'COP24', Katowice**

Dear President,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

It is my great pleasure to represent Georgia at COP24 and have a privilege to express my sincere gratitude to the Polish Presidency for its superb leadership, and to the people of Poland for their generous hospitality.

The IPCC special report on the impacts of global temperature rise of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways published prior to COP24 represents a strong signal for the urgent need to enhance the global response to the threat of climate change and to achieve sustainable development.

In this regard, Georgia's decision to update its NDC by 2020 demonstrates our commitment to increasing our level of ambition in combating climate change and further limiting our greenhouse gas emissions. Georgia will achieve its enhanced low carbon trajectory through increased reliance on renewable energy sources and a further reduction in the demand for fossil fuel in the country.

I am proud to report that my country has already provided incentives toward both of these aims. For example, households and small scale businesses can now transfer electricity produced by PV systems back to the grid. We have also completely eliminated import duties for E-vehicles and reduced import duties on hybrid vehicles to encourage private citizens and business to choose low-emission transportation options.

In Georgia, we continue our work to mainstream climate-smart agriculture and sustainable forestry management practices to reduce emissions from agricultural sector and increase the CO<sub>2</sub> removal capacity of country's forests.

In recent years, with the support of our partner countries and international organisations, we have begun delivering new technologies and advancing our technical capacities by implementing pilot mitigation projects to demonstrate the potential of green technology and to encourage the decoupling of economic development from carbon reliance. Hence, I would like to use this opportunity to express Georgia's gratitude to our partners that continue to support us in our transition to a more resilient and low carbon future.

This support is particularly appreciated in light of the catastrophic climate-related events Georgia has been experiencing in the Caucasus mountain region. These events include flashfloods and mudslides instigated by accelerated glacial melting, which is having a devastating impact on Georgia's mountain-dwelling population and causing huge economic losses for the region. The support we have received and the actions we have taken are essential steps in trying to limit these disastrous impacts. But we know further action is needed, at both the national and global levels.

*Excellencies, dear colleagues,*

Let me point out that recently Georgia adopted an inter-governmental, multi-disciplinary climate policy process, requiring the coordination of relevant policies by the inter-ministerial committee on climate change with an aim to upscale climate governance in the country and underpin the implementation of our NDC. Actions such as these demonstrate Georgia's commitment to a holistic approach to climate governance and to integrating climate awareness in all governmental sectors.

COP24 builds on three years of momentum and has the potential to leap forward by giving the climate community clear, transparent, and understandable rules for implementing the Paris Agreement. I would like to thank all Parties here for the tremendous joint work in keeping up this momentum. I have confidence that we will keep that momentum as we bring COP 24 to a successful conclusion.

Thank you.