

Address by H.E. Mr. Costel ALEXE

Minister, Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests

Head of delegation of Romania

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Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Distinguished Delegates,

I am honoured to have the opportunity to address you today. Please allow me to thank the Government of Chile for its efforts for organizing this COP. I am also expressing my gratitude for the timely support provided by the Kingdom of Spain, the city of Madrid, for the excellent hospitality.

At COP24, Parties reached a successful outcome by agreeing on a rulebook that brings the Paris Agreement to life and makes it operational.

At the previous session in June, during the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, we achieved substantial progress on many agenda items. And yet, **Article 6** remains open even now, though it is an important tool for achieving our mitigation goal while preserving environmental integrity. We can do better than that.

We have however made progress regarding the **Enhanced Transparency Framework**, the second review of the **Warsaw International Mechanism for loss and damage**, on **capacity building** and on improving the efficiency and transparency of the **budget** process.

We came here, in Madrid, with strong hopes that the progress made in Bonn will land an agreement on Article 6, as well as other agenda items mandated for this COP.

We have also heard the voices of the **young generation** asking for immediate climate action based on scientific recommendations.

We are committed to support the ambitious European objective of achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

I would like to inform you that Romania is continuing its trend of decoupling its economic growth from the greenhouse gas emissions. In 2020 Romania will finalize the Long Term Strategy for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, in line with our EU commitments.

But we are aware that this is not enough. And we are determined to do our best in involving all stakeholders, Parties and non-Parties, public and private actors, to fundamentally transform Romania into a climate resilient economy, while ensuring that this transition is socially fair and just.

Colleagues,

We came here to Madrid ready to see the Paris agreement start moving towards implementation and the Katowice rulebook finalized. We have heard what scientists have said, but we must now be ready to face the music: it is indeed time to act decisively and consistently, and with full transparency.

Thank you.