

**Regional Forum on sustainable Development for the ECE Forum
1 March 2018, plenary session
-draft -**

Mr. Chairman,
President of the ECOSOC,

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Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address you on behalf of the Government of Montenegro as the Regional forum on sustainable development provides an unique opportunity to exchange experiences and plans towards the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda at the regional level. My country is eager to contribute to the discussion as we believe that different issues can be tackled efficiently and comprehensively only in multilateral fora.

In the era of globalization, today's societies are faced with multiple challenges. Montenegro is one of the first countries that has integrated 2030 Agenda into its national development framework and this is done through the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. The strategy defines principles, strategic goals, measures and sub-measures for achieving the long-term sustainable development of the society, taking into account the current situation and our international commitments. In this way, the Strategy became an "umbrella" which refers not only to the economy and environment, but also to human resources and valuable social capital.

The action Plan of the NSSD defines measures with relevant detailed elaboration through sub-measures and target outcomes within the sustainable development strategic goals of Montenegro. These priority topics, strategic goals, measures and sub-measures of sustainable development by 2030 are the answer of Montenegro to obligations resulting from the 2030 Agenda. Out of 169 individual sustainable development tasks of the 2030 Agenda, 167 have been

transposed into measures defined in the Action Plan for the implementation of the National strategy, thus confirming universal nature and cross-sectoral character of the Strategy necessary to build resilient society.

The key phase for success of the NSSD implementation, and therefore for achieving sustainable development of Montenegro, is monitoring and reporting on the results of its implementation. In order to enable the NSSD implementation and reporting, integrated system for monitoring of the sustainable development trends of Montenegro has been developed.

Montenegro is in the process of establishing the functional information system and data base which will enable simultaneous collecting of data by subjects responsible for monitoring of certain sustainable development indicators.

Apart from this task, Montenegro has also started the process of analyzing the sectoral strategies and policies and the recommendations on the efficient way to harmonize the relevant policies with NSSD.

Mr. Chairman,

As recent analysis shows, countries in Eastern Europe have met some of the most pressing challenges in providing social services and access to basic infrastructure, but greater progress is needed to achieve these SDGs. Also, numerous SDGs and targets have a transboundary dimension.

As a relatively small country, Montenegro puts an emphasis on a regional cooperation and as a good example I would point out to the project "SDGs and Western Balkan countries" which has recently started and is implemented with our regional partners.

We believe that regional cooperation, exchange of best practices and cooperation on project implementation will contribute to the concrete implementation of SDGs on regional and national level.

I thank you very much for your attention.