

**STATEMENT**  
**by H.E. Mr. Predrag Nenezić,**  
**Minister of Tourism and Environment of Montenegro**  
**at the Sixty-third session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**  
**Geneva, March 31, 2009.**

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Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

Allow me to begin by expressing my Government's sincere appreciation for the opportunity to have at the Agenda for today's meeting the issue of climate change, as one of humanity's most pressing and difficult challenges. Projecting the consequences of climate change is a key parameter for both long-term environmental and development policies at national, as well as at regional and global levels.

Montenegro is a developing country and a country whose greenhouse gas emissions do not substantially contribute to global warming. With a relatively high level of forest and vegetation cover, it has a potential to contribute to the stabilization of carbon-dioxide contents. Since the array of potential adaptive responses is very large, ranging from purely technological, through behavioral, to managerial and to policy, we have recognized the need to increase our ability to define and implement adaptation and mitigation strategies within a suitable timeframe.

While the integration is an effective approach for putting adaptation into practice, the financing has to enable it to respond the additional burden posed to economy by climate change. At the same time, such an approach in planning and financing is not possible to be achieved without political agreements that support regional and related national activities. As a positive example of responsible regional acting in creating the appropriate framework to deal with the integration of adaptation measures in socio - economic activities, I would like to bring to your attention the experience of the South - Eastern European region related to the development of the Climate Change Framework Action Plan for Adaptation with support of the Regional Environmental Centre and adoption of the appropriate Ministerial Declaration. Since the coordination of activities in the areas of regional vulnerability is the best way to provide synergy in acting among different stakeholders, Montenegro committed itself to coordinate implementation of the sub regional programmes in the field of adaptation in tourism and coastal areas, as well as to host the Regional Political Climate Change Forum, as a forum for political and policy dialogue. In order to secure the adequate follow-up on both issues, and the Sixth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" recognition of the urgent need to address climate change in the ECE region, the Government of Montenegro and UNDP joined the efforts in developing a Regional Programme on Climate Change.

We are also fully aware that climate change mitigation will require significant technological changes. Any future agreements to enhance mitigation actions need to include a variety of funding sources and delivery mechanisms that address GHG emissions from all sectors in all countries. Montenegro has made certain efforts towards climate change mitigation, in particular by implementing measures in the fields of energy supply and use of

renewable energy, as well as by applying new standards in the sectors of transport and building. At the same time, we create the capacities to provide efficient enforcement of the UNECE MEAs, especially Convention on Long - range Transboundary Air Pollution and its Protocols, Espoo and Aarhus Conventions. The special emphasis has been put on the establishment of the National Designated Authority and realization of the CDM projects which could not be possible to be achieved without a strong national commitment and efficient partnership with the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea.

These examples clearly indicate why we plead for building the partnerships between developed and developing countries, between Annex I and non Annex I countries, between EU and countries in the process of integration into EU, as the manner to contribute to the reduction of the disparities in the ECE region. Such an approach is of special importance now, we are looking to meet the commitments under the EU Climate Change and Energy Package and Communication from the EC towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen and a new financial architecture for Post 2012.

Recognising that the solution to climate change will require involvement from all nations, 2009 must be the year where all of us should give its contribution. Therefore, I am pleased to be able to announce that the Ministerial Conference on Climate Change and Sustainable Development will be organized in the period between October 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009, in Montenegro. This Conference will be an opportunity for South-Eastern Europe and Mediterranean Annex I and Non Annex I countries to exchange different experiences in creation and implementation of the sustainable development policy, with a particular focus on the integration of climate change, sustainable development and tourism policies at national, regional and international level.

The global economic crisis calls for acting that has to be not only aimed at the re-regulation of finance, but also at the transformation in order to enable low carbon economy. In that respect, the international community is expected to develop and expand innovative financing mechanisms, such as the Adaptation and Climate Investment Funds, International Finance Facility and Global Clean Energy Cooperation. With such instruments put in place, it would be possible to provide funding for the objectives of the Global Green New Deal, especially those related to the reduction of carbon dependency, ecosystem degradation and water scarcity.

In order to increase ability of developing economies to reduce carbon dependency and to improve ecosystem management, UNECE with its Committees and Programmes has the proper structure to support comprehensive, well-targeted climate change issues integration into sectoral planning, including transportation and energy networking. Also UNECE is proper positioned to contribute within the scope of the EfE process reform and overall ECE reform in achieving a global climate change agreement in Copenhagen, in December 2009.

Ladies and Gentleman,

In that sense, while expecting further concerted actions and support, I thank you for the attention.