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- online streaming -

The high-level segment “Promoting circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources in the region of the Economic Commission for Europe”

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Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to express my sincere appreciation and congratulate the UN Economic Commission for Europe for organizing this high-level segment dedicated to promoting circular economy and sustainable use of natural resources, especially in these challenging times generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Without any doubt, circular economy is part of the solution for a post-COVID recovery, a process that is demanding new approaches and an efficient use of available natural resources. In this respect, circular economy brings to the fore the need to reuse and recycle product units resulting from production processes, as many times as technically feasible.

We believe that it is necessary to maintain an open dialogue with all stakeholders and to enhance our efforts at national level in order to promote a sustainable management of natural resources in assent with a more circular economy approach.

Currently, Romania is engaged in a process to widely promote sustainable development throughout the public policy in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the EU Circular Economy Action Plan. In this regard, Romania’s Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 defines our national framework and provides a roadmap for achieving the SDGs.

As part of governance aspects, the proposal for a National Recovery and Resilience Plan includes through the First Pillar named “Green Transition” specific actions targeting the Waste management, selective collection and circular economy.

Other initiatives supporting the circular economy approach are related to the buy-back guarantee-return systems, the circular economy contribution for municipal
waste destined to be disposed of by landfill and the national framework of ecological public procurement. Further on, we have initiated through our Environment Fund Administration, a special program dedicated to waste management, as part of our efforts to create an efficient system and to increase public awareness in this area.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Circular economy is not just a concept, it is an adaptative approach that involves a better understanding from all of us. Additional measures can be implemented only by involving all the stakeholders in order to build up a sustainable post-pandemic world.

Let me conclude by saying that we need cooperation when it comes to consolidating the circular economy governance. It is my strong believe that our joint efforts can create a better tomorrow!

Thank you for your attention!