

Ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues, greetings on behalf of the Government of Armenia, pleased to be here!

Republic of Armenia has embraced the principles of circular economy to boost the sustainability and resilience of its production and operation systems. For example, we have embarked on an aggressive transformation of energy industries with a target to provide over 30% of country's electricity needs from solar and wind power by 2040, while hydro already supplies another 30%, all through public-private partnerships and favorable investment triggers. We are committed to increased clean and efficient energy solutions in buildings, industries and decarbonized transportation. Political reforms and local solutions are underway for improved management, sorting and recycling of waste, while we're reforming municipal solid waste management strategies. Armenia is a Party to the Paris Agreement and is also bound by the Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement with EU. This partnership is aimed at, among other things, cooperation on sustainable industry, transport, agriculture, energy, climate and environment at large, well in the spirit of the European Green Deal.

Armenia has a lot to learn and benefit from the experiences in transition to circular economy in partner UNECE countries. We are looking for cooperation opportunities for investing in cleaner production technologies, boosting resource efficiencies and accelerating digitalization in all economic sectors from agricultural SMEs to large industries and mining. Armenia has a wealth of talent and innovation to offer. Over the past twenty years Armenia's GDP growth has decoupled from heavy resource intensities, and a promising breakthrough has been registered in high-tech and digital industries.

There is a variety of Government-funded remedy packages targeting job creation, green communities, smart industries, socially inclusive development, green SMEs, resilient growth and sustainable services. Our team at the Ministry of Economy of Armenia is working on a new Economic Policy concept, which favors human capital development, knowledge-based economy, technological transition, advanced value chains, access to finance, competitiveness, favorable business environment, and willingness of the State to co-invest, to mention a few.

The Government of Armenia is willing to support and leverage investments in projects with such transformational impact, especially amidst efforts for post-pandemic economic recovery in a greener, cleaner, more circular pathways.

Thank you for attention. I'd like to wish everyone productive discussions in the proceeding sessions.

***Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia***

***Mr. Vahan Kerobyan***