



PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement

by

Ms. Olga Algayerova

United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary

of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

at

**Joint Meeting of Ministers of Education and Ministers of Environment/Ministers
addressing Climate Change:**

**“Together for Tomorrow: Education and Climate Action”
Youth and Public Empowerment Day**

5 November 2021

16:00 to 17:30

**Location: Blue Zone, ZONE F
Room: Pen y Fan Plenary Room**

Excellencies, colleagues, dear delegates,

My name is Olga Algayerova, and I am the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). As a Regional Commission, we are working with 56 member States in Europe, Central Asia and North America and a broad network of experts and stakeholders.

This event links different components that are key for making tomorrow's world a better place than it is today. Indeed, it is our responsibility not to damage beyond repair the world that the next generations will inherit from us; it is our responsibility to deal with today's problems now, and Climate is one of the biggest of those problems.

To achieve Climate goals, we need to join forces, both across sectors and across countries. I am happy to report that my organization – UNECE – contributes to this process in multiple ways. The example I wish to highlight today has been a focus area since 2005 – the Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development - for which UNECE provides the secretariat.

The so-called ESD process is a regional tool that is aligned with the global efforts led by UNESCO. We also cooperate closely with similar subregional ESD processes, like the one in the Mediterranean, that Her Excellency Minister Kerameus of Greece has mentioned.

At present, education and environment authorities from our region are working together to develop the strategic document on ESD for the UNECE Region. This document will outline concrete actions to be taken in the next decade. It addresses Climate Change issues through education and assigns special importance to the role of Youth. I hope that it will be ambitious and impact oriented.

My organization is committed to fully supporting the efforts of our member States to adopt this document next October, at the 9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference to be held in Nicosia, at the kind invitation of the Government of Cyprus. There, the Ministries of Education and the Environment from the whole region will meet, and I hope to see some of today's guests, as well.

Adoption of the strategic document will represent our contribution to COP 27 in Egypt (7-18 November 2022), one month after Nicosia.

In conclusion I would like to thank Professor Daniella Tilbury, our moderator, and an active member to the UNECE Steering Committee on ESD.

===

