

STATEMENT

Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary, UNECE

**Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Climate Change Initiative
(EMME-CCI) -**

Heads of State Summit

8 November 2022, 10.00-11.00 am CET

Your Excellency, President El-Sisi,

Your Excellency, President Anastasiades,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honor to be present at the launch of the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East (EMME) Climate Change Initiative (EMME-CCI) at such a highest level.

Climate Change is one of the greatest challenges to our generation and it can't be tackled without **collective response**. It is our task to shape this response at all levels – **global, regional, and national**.

Just a month ago the **9th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference was held on October 5-7 in Nicosia, Cyprus**, with the excellent cooperation from the Cyprus Government. It was attended by **900 delegates** and the Government delegations from **52 countries of the pan-European and Mediterranean region**.

In para 5 of the Nicosia Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the Conference, the Ministers declare: “We fully recognize the seriousness of the challenges facing our planet and our region [...] and we stress that the task of finding successful solutions to these grave challenges, notably on biodiversity, climate change and overall pollution, **calls for a joint and coordinated response that can only be achieved through close international cooperation** [...]”.

Today's launch of the EMME-CCI at such a highest level is a good prerequisite to the joint and coordinated response - exactly the kind of response that the Nicosia Declaration is referring to. In this regard I'm glad to note that the **government delegations from 9 countries of the EMME region [Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Qatar, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates]** have participated in the **proceedings of the Nicosia Ministerial Conference**.

Sharm-al-Sheikh represents another milestone in the global cooperation responding to climate change. However, it is obvious that global solutions must be supported by actions on regional and national scale. Since its establishment in 1947, my organization, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, has accumulated **extensive experience in supporting regional cooperation**; we will be glad to **share this experience in support of the EMME-CCI** whenever relevant.

In conclusion, I would once again thank the Cyprus Government and His Excellency President Anastasiades for great hospitality and perfect organization of Nicosia Ministerial Conference, and the Government of Egypt and His Excellency, President El-Sisi],for being our hosts in hospitable Sharm-al-Sheikh. I wish the EMME-CCI initiative all the success - for the sake of our planet and our future generations.

Thank you!