

UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 70th Session

Thank you Madame Chair.

Distinguished Delegates,

Let me start by thanking the Secretariat for its efforts and expressing the importance of hearing this kind of deliberations, especially in this time when the world has been experiencing a multitude of challenges.

In history, challenging periods have always brought opportunities as well. They force us to overcome difficulties through changing the ways we operate.

Digital and Green Transformations are one of these attempts.

We consider that they are prerequisites for advancing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of 2030.

The repercussions of climate change as well as the pandemic have further reminded us the relevance and urgency of this transition.

Both equally important for the UNECE region and beyond, the green transformation and digital transformation can not succeed without the other.

Türkiye has taken significant steps to achieve this transformation in recent years.

In order to lead the digital transformation process in all sectors, Türkiye established the Digital Transformation Office to coordinate the efforts through policies.

We have been developing the skills needed to operate in a digital environment across all segments of society; diffusing digital technologies and know-how to public and private sector, including the small and medium size enterprises.

As for green transformation, we have been taking bold steps to champion this process in Türkiye.

We would like to achieve the green growth and towards this end, adopted the Green Deal Action Plan in 2021, which is a roadmap aiming to support green transformation in all policy areas.

The “Zero Waste” initiative under the auspices of our First Lady H.E. Emine Erdoğan is another element of our approach.

Together with UN agencies, UN General Assembly adopted the resolution recognizing the importance of zero-waste initiatives and declared March 30th as the International Day of Zero Waste.

Energy transition is also important part of our transformation strategy.

Hydrogen, particularly from renewables will also constitute an important part of the green transition efforts in the years to come.

A collective effort is needed in this sense to build the technology needed to make this form of energy viable, affordable and accessible.

Türkiye has been investing heavily in renewables. Consequently 55% of its installed capacity is from renewable sources.

We will continue to build on this.

Madam Chair,

While the green and digital transformations are very significant, they should be inclusive and accessible for everybody.

Necessary mechanisms and tools including financial ones should be made available for countries with limited resources and know-how.

Türkiye continues to contribute to the efforts to develop capacities and prevent a global divide in this regard.

We are for instance hosting the UN Technology Bank for LDCs in Gebze, the only UN agency dedicated to the LDCs exclusively.

The bank, which accepts financial and in-kind contributions by donors, acts as a gateway for research, training, technology transfer and undertakes mainly demand-driven projects for LDCs.

We invite the UNECE members to provide financial and in-kind contribution to the Technology Bank in order to enhance its effectiveness.

Türkiye considers UNECE as one of the lead mechanisms which could significantly support green and digital transformation initiatives in the region and Türkiye stands ready to further enhance its cooperation and share best practices to this end.

Thank you.