

**“Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the region of the
Economic Commission for Europe.”**
– statement made by Slovakia - State Secretary H.E. Ingrid Brockova

Dear Madam Chair, Dear Executive Secretary, esteemed delegates, it is an honor to address this distinguished gathering on the occasion of the 70th Session of the Commission.

3 set of remarks – First on Ukraine, Second on UNECE and third on Slovakia

As we gather here to **discuss the digital and green transformations for sustainable development** in the **UNECE region**, we cannot ignore the impact of **multiple crisis** on our shared aspirations.

First, Ukraine

The Russian aggression in **Ukraine** has not only caused immense human suffering and loss of lives, but also has had a **negative impact** on the economic and social well-being of the entire **region**. Historically, the UNECE has played a strong role in reconstruction and Slovakia supports all projects and plans for the **post-war reconstruction of Ukraine**. It is joint agenda of all of us.

Second, UNECE

It is **impressive** how fast the **EU** and its member states were able to **shift from the dependency on Russian energy imports**. We should **continue our efforts** to boost the speed of **green transition** and **digitalization** and to minimize any energy shortages in the future. The **current energy crisis** cannot lead to **weakening of our long-term climate goals**. On the contrary, we believe **acceleration** of green transition and investments in the **green economy** are the part of the solution of the **energy crisis**, not a threat or a problem.

The **SDG status report** released recently shows that our region is in many ways **worse off** than it was **8 years ago**. Moreover, we are further away from fulfilling our goals than it was a year ago. However, we must not lose hope, determination and commitment. We must **stand together as a region** and work towards a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

The **transformative power of technology** is evident in every aspect of our lives. We need to **identify crucial technologies of the future**, analyze their impact and offer policy guidance with the aim to boost common economic growth, increase productivity and quality of our lives.

Governments have to manage **complex political realities** when implementing **reforms**, **formulating** the policies that create **opportunity for all**, reduce inequalities, including gender inequality through **gender sensitive and gender transformative approaches** to the net zero transition.

Third, Slovakia

Back in 2016, during the **Slovak presidency of the Council of the EU**, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic started the so-called the **Bratislava process** of transition to a green economy. The transition to a **circular economy** is defined as one of the **strategic priorities** in the **Environmental Policy Strategy of Slovakia until 2030**.

Slovakia currently **produces about 53% of electricity in nuclear power plants** which, together with renewables, makes our energy mix highly decarbonised. By 2030 we plan to produce electricity **up to 90%** (*compared to the current approx. 70%*) **from carbon-neutral sources** (*Nuclear, Hydro, Renewable Energy Sources*).

Lately, in February, the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic announced a call to apply for the **Green Education Fund** to support **environmental education** in Slovakia. We must **involve young generation** to reach our climate goals and make our transition process real.

Slovakia, as a part of **Team Europe**, has already embarked on a **transition towards low-carbon economy** that is climate neutral, resource-efficient and circular, while ensuring social equality and inclusiveness. We see **vital** for **Slovakia** to **raise awareness, education** and involvement of the Slovak society to a green transition, but also to actively participate in a digital transformation.

To conclude

Yes, we have **powerful tools in our hands**. We need to **work together as a region** and need **strong leadership** on **resilient climate policy** in a changing world. Let us use this session to **reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development**, digital and green transformation and to the people of our region. **Together** we can build a better, more **sustainable future** for all, leaving no one behind.

Thank you for your attention.