

70th SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FOR ECE REGION COUNTRIES

18 - 19 April 2023, Geneva, UN Palace

Presentation by Minister Ana Novaković Đurović

Dear Mrs. Olga Algajerova,

Dear Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to greet you on behalf of the Government of Montenegro and the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, and I would like to thank the UNECE for the invitation to participate in 70th Session. I am very glad to have the opportunity to discuss with you important topics such as Digital and green transformations for sustainable development.

By the Declaration on the Ecological State of Montenegro from 1991, the constitutional determination and the adoption of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, Montenegro committed itself to sustainability as a development path that we trace towards the EU family of countries, which is directly related to the future development of the circular economy model.

The Government of Montenegro, as an active agent of the processes taking place at the national and global level, is firmly determined that future economic development must be fair and based on good management, knowledge and innovation, imbued with green transition and digital economy projects, which will enable the introduction new business processes and easier adaptation to new market circumstances.

That's why in Montenegro we developed the first National Circular Transition Strategy as a response to the current crisis and an expression of readiness for future challenges, by changing the way of thinking, doing business and the attitude towards existing resources in order to ensure a quality and healthier life for all citizens and to protect and preserve human, social and natural capital.

Support for scientific research and innovation activities through the S3 strategy in priority sectors (energy, agriculture, health tourism and IT) in our country is an expression of the need for further improvement of production processes, through the application of new technologies, which will result in an increase in the volume of production, a reduction in production costs, increasing product quality and creating new jobs.

Information systems that we use or intend to build in the field of public administration, education improvement, access to healthcare, environmental protection and spatial data will establish a comprehensive documentation base, create a better environment and increase and facilitate the availability of public information to citizens and future business partners.

It is clear that today, in the conditions of the energy crisis and high energy prices, it is much more difficult to ensure security of energy supply than in the past.

Montenegro, as a developing country, will continue to make maximum efforts to contribute to the achievement of global goals in the field of energy and climate. This means that we must be ready to implement a very demanding and long-term process of decarbonization and green energy transition, which requires coordinated intergenerational action. However, our contribution will certainly be more significant if we have appropriate support from developed countries.

The role of international cooperation, having in mind the fact that digitalization, but also environmental protection, accepts no boundaries, is of particular importance for sustainable development of cities. In this regard, it should be emphasized that Capital City Podgorica in April 2022 became a member of EU Mission of 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030.

International cooperation is essential in enhancing the positive impacts of the digital and green transformations. Partnerships between government, private businesses and other stakeholders can be used to accelerate the digital and green transformation. These partnerships can facilitate the development of innovative technologies, finance new projects and provide resources and expertise needed to implement the transformation.

Finally, I would like to express expectation that our talks will contribute to the improvement of our cooperation and faster achievement of common goals related to Digital and green transformations for sustainable development.