

**Draft Statement of H.E. Srđan Darmanović, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro at the Ministerial Segment of the High Level Political Forum, Njujork, 14-17 July 2020**

*Theme: Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We remain confronted with the serious, global challenges that threaten to further slow our efforts to deliver results by 2030. The unprecedented COVID-19 crisis has only revealed how vulnerable and fragile our systems are facing the health emergency of global reach. In these circumstances, it is important to show solidarity and full commitment to the SDGs Agenda.

In the decade of action ahead of us, we must take further and decisive steps necessary to accelerate action towards reducing inequalities and reaching a level of development that will ensure quality of life and well-being for our citizens. It is indisputable that the COVID-19 crisis will have profound effect on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, our efforts will also need to be focused on achieving sustainable and inclusive recovery from the pandemic, while we strive for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Montenegro remains committed and ready to invest further efforts to ensure rapid and sustainable socio-economic recovery, as a critical incentive to achieve the set goals faster. Our efforts will continue to be linked to our EU accession agenda, which is compatible and complementary to the global goals.

Montenegro will continue to implement the 2030 Agenda due to its own need to change through sustainable development, transforming our society towards the development of knowledge, skills, adoption of positive practices and experiences. Combined with the traditional values of society, this should create long-term sustainable development models.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Under the auspices of our Strategic document on sustainable development until 2030, we are undertaking a set of national resource management measures through a four-dimensional development concept based on human, social, natural and economic resources. Preliminary results indicate that for the first reporting period 2016-2019. Montenegro is well on the way to meet the requirements in the field of human and social resources, while additional efforts are needed to implement the requirements in natural and economic resources, as well as in management and financing for sustainable development for a long-term and prosperous development of Montenegrin society.

Our goal is to uphold the continuous action towards the achievement of the SDGs through the quality integration of the Agenda requirements into all relevant segments of social development. It is a process, in which small steps generate a number of positive benefits, not only for a particular entity that drives it, but also for the wider environment. Our actions must ensure that economic results are not reduced, but on the contrary, that the efficiency and productivity of resources, innovation, job creation, environmentally sound technologies and sustainable consumption and production, are encouraged.

Amidst the COVID-19 crisis, Agenda 2030 still represents our best global roadmap for the future. As stated in the Secretary-General's report on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19: "We must seize the opportunity of this crisis to strengthen our commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals."

Our common goals require joint actions aimed in preserving Agenda 2030 integrity, as well as enhancing our efforts to ensure cooperation, assistance and solidarity. The UN leadership, based on genuine multilateralism, remains the driving force of the process, and a unique platform for strengthening sustainable development.

Within its capacities Montenegro will continue to conduct actions towards reaching our common goals: prosperous, healthy and stable global society.

Thank you.