



**Commission on Sustainable Development
Sixteenth Session, 5 - 16 May 2008, New York**

**Ministerial Roundtable on Inter-linkages among the Thematic Issues,
including Adaptation to Climate Change**

**The address by H.E. Mr. Predrag Nenezic,
Minister of Tourism and Environment of Montenegro**

Mister Chair, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman,

Before moving to the topic of discussion, let me first express my appreciation for the opportunity to take part in the CSD 16th Session and extend warm greetings to all the participants of the meeting.

Projecting the consequences of climate change is a key parameter for long-term policy making on national as well as on regional and global levels. In that respect it is particularly important to take into account the inter-linkages between water, climate change, forests, agriculture and land management. While all the countries will be affected by climate change, it will make it even more difficult for the developing countries to achieve their sustainable development objectives. Therefore, helping developing countries to decrease their contribution to climate change causes while adapting to the changing climates is of the utmost importance.

Montenegro is a developing and a country that does not add substantially to global warming with greenhouse gases emissions. With a relatively high level of forestation and vegetation cover, my country has a potential to contribute to the stabilization of carbon-dioxide contents in the atmosphere.

We are nonetheless aware of the necessity to conduct activities aimed at reduction of greenhouse gases emissions, following the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Moreover, we have recognized the need to increase our ability to define and implement adaptation strategies within a suitable timeframe.

Montenegro is attaching particular importance to the process of drafting the First National Communication to the UNFCCC and to implementation of CDM projects in the fields of energy, agriculture and transport. Having in mind inter-linkages between climate change and biodiversity conservation and the fact that development of sustainable tourism is seen as the main driver of country's economic development, the assessment of climate change impacts on the coastal and mountain eco-systems has to be conducted in appropriate and timely manner.

Determining the effects of global warming represents a serious challenge for institutions dealing with environmental and economic development issues in the



developing countries. Cooperation with international institutions and bilateral support of the developed countries are necessary to strengthen scientific, technical and human capacities to address these challenges. To this end, partnerships, active participation in global initiatives and agreements and synchronized donor support are crucial.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to announce the Western Balkans Region Ministerial Conference „Addressing Global Warming through Pollution Prevention, Reduction and Control“ that will be organized in Montenegro on 13th and 14th November 2008. The Conference is a part of the successful UNDP/ Dutch Government initiative of working together with Western Balkans on remediation of nine priority hot spots.

At the same time, I would like to invite all the participants of today’s meeting to firmly confirm joint willingness to act and provide efficient responses to the most challenging global issue of our time.

While expecting further concerted action and support, I thank you for attention.