

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement

by

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at

**The 2030 Agenda: Partnerships for Sustainable Development –
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Prime-Minister Dancila,
Minister Meleşcanu,
Excellencies,
Colleagues and friends,

Thank you for inviting me to address this important Conference. I am very happy to be here, as the topic of partnerships for sustainable development is at the heart of UNECE's mandate.

For over 70 years, the UN Economic Commission for Europe has supported economic development and regional integration. The 2030 Agenda has defined a universal and comprehensive framework for implementing this mandate: supporting member States in responding to the challenges of our region.

48 out of 56 UNECE members have conducted Voluntary National Reviews during the last 4 years. The region is working hard to deliver on the SDGs. Yet, our progress is still slow. The magnitude of the task demands new methods of work, and new solutions that can only be found through partnership.

UNECE has just held two important meetings in this regard: the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in March, and the sixty-eighth session of the Commission last week. Bringing together a wide range of stakeholders and forging new partnerships were key characteristics of both.

At the Regional Forum, 850 representatives from 50 governments, international organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector discussed how to move ahead with the 2030 Agenda.

And our Commission Session focused on the theme of smart sustainable cities. Localization of SDGs is of course a crucial issue, so we looked at how local governments can work in partnership with the

UN, with national governments and other stakeholders to that end. In a first, we hosted mayors from 31 countries in the UNECE region and exchanged experiences on their road to smart sustainable practices. This budding partnership promises to open many new avenues in support of the 2030 Agenda.

Cooperation unlocks new solutions to problems we cannot solve alone. This is particularly true at the regional level, where countries share many challenges and the rewards from concerted action are more apparent. UNECE's mandate is to promote such regional cooperation towards the 2030 Agenda.

We fulfil this mandate in many ways. In particular, our normative work translates global goals into concrete commitments and guidelines for action in environment, transport, energy, trade and other areas. It provides a common language and a regulatory framework. This is important not just for governments, but also the private sector and other stakeholders. An example is the UN Framework Classification for Resources, increasingly accepted as a global standard for sound management petroleum, minerals, renewable energy and other resources.

Our normative work is practical, seeking to address concrete problems and propose solutions distilled from shared experiences. There is a strong link between this work and our capacity-building and policy advisory activities. These contribute to bridging development and regulatory gaps across our diverse region and thus advance regional integration. To implement these activities, we work in close partnership with UN Country Teams and the regional UN system.

The 2030 Agenda represents a new paradigm for public policies. Actions cannot be considered in isolation. There is increasing demand for integrated policy advice, addressing both the multiple dimensions of sustainable development and cross-sectoral impacts. UNECE's varied portfolio of sectoral activities is well placed to meet this demand.

We are adapting our working methods to leverage this diverse expertise – we call this the “nexus” approach. Collaborating across our different sectoral teams, we jointly address key challenges by integrating different tools and perspectives and develop integrated solutions. In particular, we focus on four overarching themes that are critical for policymakers:

- Ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources,
- promoting smart sustainable cities, and
- sustainable mobility and smart connectivity
- measuring and monitoring SDG implementation is also

We believe that replicating this integrated methodology at national level and adopting a whole-of-government approach could help countries make significant strides towards the SDGs.

Change will not happen if the necessary resources are not forthcoming. Both governments and other actors need to contribute the necessary funding. The recently launched UN Road Safety Trust Fund, with a secretariat hosted by UNECE, is a good example of how collaboration can mobilise the necessary finance. In eight months, almost \$20 million have been raised. And we have also launched our guidelines for “People-first Public-Private Partnerships” – which seek to make PPPs fit for purpose for the SDGs by integrating sustainable development concerns. The approach has already been adopted in many countries, including in Africa and Asia.

I hope that I have been able to offer some useful insights to inform your discussions. And I hope the personal and institutional links that we forge here will open new possibilities for cooperation.

Thank you.