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## **Opening statement**

by

**Ms. Olga Algayerova**

**United Nations Under-Secretary-General**

**Executive Secretary**

**of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe**

at the

**Launch of the 2021 State of the Climate in Europe Report**

**2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022, 15.30-17.30 (Geneva time)**

**WMO HQ**

## **Statements on partnership to deliver the 2021 State of the Climate in Europe Report as contribution to UN Agenda 2030 (SDG13):**

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to speak at the Launch of the 2021 State of the Climate in Europe Report and thank the World Meteorological Organization for the invitation.

The report clearly shows that we are off track to meet SDG 13 in the Pan-European region- both with regards to adaptation and mitigation.

However, the report also shows the power of partnerships. Only in cooperation can we jointly and more efficiently assess climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and take action on climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The UN-Water expert group on Water and Climate, coordinated by UNECE, WMO and UNESCO, is an example of such a partnership bringing together more than 30 partners. This group jointly prepared the chapter on water, climate and partnerships for the World Water Development report, to be launched at the 2023 UN Water Conference. The WMO-led Water and Climate Coalition aimed to

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address the gaps identified in the UN SDG6 Global Acceleration Framework, in particular on improving Data & Information and Capacity Development, is another example of such a partnership.

Cooperation and partnerships are also needed because both climate and water do not know borders. In the Pan-European region, the larger majority of river, lake and aquifer basins are shared. Data sharing, information exchange and dissemination of knowledge are an absolute necessity for efficient climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction because they reduce uncertainties and help build trust between countries. UNECE contribution to this Report was therefore focused on transboundary cooperation in European region.

The UNECE Water Convention exactly requires and helps countries to cooperate in shared basins. It has helped to turn the region into one of the most advanced regions worldwide on transboundary cooperation.

I would like to thank WMO for the longstanding cooperation with the UNECE Water Convention on monitoring, assessment and information sharing as well as climate change adaptation in transboundary basins.

**Finally, let me** congratulate WMO on the launch of the 2021 State of the Climate in Europe Report. I am **convinced** that this report

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will help to achieve SDG 13 serving as a good reference and knowledge base for developing climate policies and actions. **UNECE is pleased to contribute to this and future editions of the report.**

Many of us will travel next week to Egypt for the 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27). Based on the report, I call upon all countries to take bold action on both climate change adaptation and mitigation. The fact that Egypt has put water so high on the agenda and developed the flagship initiative Action for Water Adaptation and Resilience (AWARE) is a positive sign.

I wish you a successful event.

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