

Montenegro
Item 2

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HLS 68 UNECE "Smart Sustainable Cities: Drivers for Sustainable Development"
9 April 2019

Mr. Chair,
Director General,
Executive Secretary,

I would like to express my satisfaction with participation at the 68th session of the UNECE, as we perceive deliberations of the Commission very relevant for economic and social development of the region. We believe that the session of the Commission, and yesterday's event "Day of cities" present an excellent opportunity to learn more about UNECE instruments that support sustainable practices and ways to monitor progress on the path towards creating smart sustainable cities.

Mr. Chair,

By adopting the 2030 UN Agenda, the world leaders committed themselves to building a world of universal respect for environmental sustainability, human rights and human dignity, without any form of discrimination. Montenegro responded to this challenge by preparing the National Strategy for Sustainable Development to 2030 and has integrated the UN 2030 Agenda into the national framework. Montenegrin strategy is positioned as an umbrella, horizontal and long-term development strategy, which refers to the economy, environment, human and social capital. Advancing implementation of the Strategy on national, and also local level, requires cooperation of all subjects in order to mobilize actions and resources across public and private sectors.

By 2050 almost three quarters of the world's population will live in urban areas. The trend provides a tremendous opportunity to strengthen cities as drivers of sustainable development and enable them to work on a wide range of policies, rules, institutions, and technologies. In case of Montenegro, I would particularly emphasize our activities on the local level in the area of waste water management, energy efficiency, and education. I would also like to emphasise successful cooperation with bilateral and multilateral partners in various municipalities in Montenegro.

UNECE has a reach array of normative instruments which address important regulatory issues related to the 2030 Agenda. In this light, the reform of the United Nations Development System seeks to increase and focus the impact of the development results at the country level and we welcome the reform of the system.

Mr. Chair,

There are numerous UNECE projects and programs that are relevant for my country, allow me to name a few areas: environment, transport, urban planning. Montenegro has participated in process of Environmental Performance Review and at the moment development of a national action plan or policy packages to implement the EPR recommendations related to SDGs is envisaged. The next activity related to the review will be held in Montenegro, with a participants from the region of the South East Europe, in June 2019.

We believe that, like it was the case in previous years, the UNECE deliberations will lead to a sucesfull policy solutions and support governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.