



Speaking points for the Executive Secretary, Ms. Olga Algayerova for the “Partnerships for Ambition: Unlocking the Full Potential of Local Climate Action”

First, thank you for the pleasure of joining you here today. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to these great ideas and concrete suggestions on how we can work together to localize climate action. I really like the title of this meeting: “Partnerships for Ambition”.

Each one of us came here today with an idea, or their own initiative for climate action. I am, of course, not an exception. I must thank the organizers of this session as well their colleagues from the Nature-Based Solutions coalition, for allowing me to launch the “Trees in Cities Challenge” and thus invite mayors help mitigate climate change in cities.

This campaign, which has us all excited at UNECE in Geneva, rests on a simple idea: powerful climate action can be promoted through a simple yet highly-effective nature-based solution: tree-planting. By taking the Challenge, cities can unlock multiple sustainability benefits: for the climate, environment, and society. I invite all mayors present to contact my colleagues and find out more about the initiative.

“Partnerships for Ambition” is such a simple and yet elegant way of saying: No matter how ambitious our individual initiatives are, their power to make a difference is limited to the extent we are prepared to work together. I was even more enthusiastic to join this meeting upon realizing that I would be sharing the stage with my dear colleague from UN-Habitat. Our two organizations have enjoyed an outstanding cooperation on urban issues. Again, I invite all present delegates to learn more about our joint work. Feel free to approach us for constructive suggestions – we would be happy to hear them.

As the Secretary-General requested, I too, came with an action plan rather than with a speech. So, I will keep this short. To my UN colleagues I thank you for all your strong support and cooperation. Let us keep working together towards smarter, more sustainable, and more resilient cities. To all other delegates present, and mayors, I would like to say: we are here to support you, and work with you. Let us know the best ways to do it.

Thank you.