

**National Statement for the High-level Segment of the Sixth
Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly**

**“Effective, inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle
climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution”**

**Mr. Nikolay Sidzhimov, Deputy Minister of Environment and
Water of the Republic of Bulgaria**

Mr. President,
Honorable Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to participate and speak at this high-level tribune providing us with an opportunity to make political commitments for progressive and ambitious actions to ensure a better future with a clean and healthy environment.

Nowadays we face a crisis which is stronger and more pressing than ever. Through inclusive, effective and sustainable multilateral actions we need to overcome the triple challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss and of pollution and to make progress towards the SDGs.

In the light of the decision taken by the COP28 to end the use of fossil fuels, Bulgaria is among the countries with more ambitious climate goals with a horizon of 2040, which will rethink and revise policies and measures both at national and sectoral level.

We are convinced that it is urgent to take actions which are cost-effective and sustainable, while delivering environmental, social and economic benefits. The legislation should go together with changing of business models, society and individual consumerism and exploitation of natural resources, including biodiversity. We must direct our efforts on fulfilling the big commitments to halt and reverse biodiversity loss made with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

The circular economy and sustainable management of resources are also among the main drivers for addressing the challenges related to climate change, loss of biological diversity and pollution.

We firmly believe that that we must move to the implementation of a circular economy approach which can bring multiple benefits for nature, people, and climate. It is urgent to focus on actions for an inclusive and just transition towards sustainable production and consumption.

Achieving a full-scale circular economy is a long-term goal and it cannot happen without implementing sustainability as a philosophy in our everyday decisions. Young people are undoubtedly leaders in mainstreaming the environmental related topics and are therefore indispensable part of our transition to greener economy. Bulgaria is supporting the empowerment of young people in the decision-making process on climate subjects and is constantly developing new opportunities for youth-led initiatives.

On pollution, chemicals and waste, the agenda is just as packed. We have to promote joint approaches to environment and health that demonstrate the economic, environmental and health advantages of sound chemical management for all concerned to stimulate policies and investment to reduce chemical risks to health and environment.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that challenges we face today are shared responsibility that requires holistic approach, through continuous and strong involvement of national, regional and local authorities, private sector, social partners, academia and civil society.

I look forward to our joint efforts for a better future for all nations.

Thank you for your kind attention.