Thank you, chair.

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an HONOR to be here as Azerbaijan’s Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources as well as the President-Designate of COP29.

I would like to thank UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen and her able team for hosting us AND bringing together such an IMPRESSIVE group.

The stakes are clear: if we are to deliver on UNEP’s and the UNEA’s mission to protect the environment as a whole, we MUST effectively fight climate change.

With the climate challenge becoming EVER more pressing, we must ensure that the discussions we have here are transformed into VIABLE action.

Climate action has become a race…against…time.

As host of COP29, we KNOW that we have a KEY role to play in this race.

The critical 1.5°C limit is close to being breached - and we can see the world around us being impacted in SIGNIFICANT ways.
While we are unified and COMMITTED to a 1.5°C goal, we must focus on action and overcome anything that gets in our way.

As part of our strong commitment to global climate action, we have joined the Global Methane Pledge to collectively reduce methane emissions by at least 30% below 2020 levels by 2030.

The impacts of climate change have reached UNPRECEDENTED levels around the globe.

It is well publicized that this is causing MILLIONS of premature deaths each year. These interconnected challenges underscore the need for effective… inclusive… and SUSTAINABLE… MULTILATERAL action.

The interconnected nature of these crises requires transformative solutions that can ONLY be achieved through COLLABORATIVE efforts.

COP29 can be a GATEWAY to that success with Azerbaijan as a bridge-builder that can UNITE communities AND countries behind the common cause of climate action.

COP28 in Dubai set the stage for this, emphasizing the need to transition away from fossil fuels and to RAMP up renewable energy AND energy efficiency, while putting in operation the loss and damage fund to help vulnerable nations recover from the adverse impacts of climate change.

Our COP29 Presidency will do its best to transform consensus into action AND increase momentum.
Key to that is climate finance, including the New…Collective…Quantified…Goal (NCQG), which will be a **KEY** focus at COP29.

We will also support the process of finalizing the Biennial Transparency Reporting (BTR), which is **CRUCIAL** to ensure progress with the NDC update, **AND** develop a comprehensive framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation.

At COP29, we commit to working towards effective…inclusive, **AND** sustainable multilateral action, bringing together voices from **ALL** segments of society including science, policy, business, and diverse communities.

Demonstrating our collaborative approach, we will work closely with the COP Presidencies of UAE and Brazil within the COP Presidencies Troika.

2024 marks the ‘Year of Solidarity for a Green World’ in Azerbaijan, during which we look to **GALVANIZE** our nation to deliver climate action.

**UNEA-6** – and COP29 – provide **GREAT** opportunities for us to do the same at a **GLOBAL** level.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that our shared commitment to a sustainable **AND** resilient future is not just a responsibility; it is a **LEGACY** we leave for generations to come.

**Thank you again** – and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss our common goals and welcome you all to Baku for COP29.