

**The six session of United Nations Environment Assembly  
(UNEA-6)**

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**delivered by**

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Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**29 February 2024**

**Madame President,**

**Madame Executive Director,**

**Your Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Romania is persuaded of the need to take urgent, effective inclusive and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle global challenges arising from interlinked environmental crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, as well as, desertification, land and soil degradation, drought and deforestation.

We are convinced that coordinated and complementary approach across Multilateral Environment Agreements is essential for the fulfillment of our actions.

Romania, is aligning itself with the EU priorities by emphasizing the importance of water across all sectors, and the need to decisively act to improve health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystems.

We also consider that UNEA has to address other critical issues, including biodiversity loss, chemical and waste management and better management of resources and minerals.

### **Distinguished Delegates,**

At national level, we envisage clear policies and strategies that recognize the nexus between mitigating climate change, halting biodiversity loss, reducing environment pollution, and enhancing environmental governance for sustainable development.

Romania is fully committed to implement the Paris Agreement. In this respect, our Government adopted *Romania's Long-Term Strategy for Reducing the Greenhouse Gas Emissions*- aiming to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. Currently, we are in the process of revising the *National Strategy and Action Plan on Adaptation to Climate Change for 2024-2030*.

Romania attaches increasing importance to the fight against plastic pollution, in line with the ambitious targets of the European Union. Therefore, the *National Strategy and Action Plan for the transition to circular economy* has been developed, in order to accelerate our transition to a circular economic model.

In this context, we launched in November last year, a nationwide Deposit-Return System, the second largest system of this kind in Europe, after Germany, in terms of the number of packages processed.

Also, we have implemented SUMAL, an integrated system for traceability of timber transports. It is unique at European level, and currently, a new version is under development, which will include the most recent technologies like satellite images,

intelligent video cameras and LIDAR. With this investment, Romania will have one of the most innovative systems for forests monitoring.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

To building back better after COVID-19 pandemic, Romanian Government has implemented the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, in which the *Digital Transformation* goes hand in hand with *The Green Transition*. This programmatic document envisages investments and reforms in water and forest management, biodiversity protection, waste management, selective collection and circular economy.

Nonetheless, we remain fully aware about the urgency of our multilateral actions. Therefore, I would conclude by saying that UNEA 6 needs to agree ambitious, coordinated action in order to tackle the triple planetary crisis – climate, biodiversity and pollution. In this respect, the Ministerial Declaration language must reflect at least the level of ambition of the precedent ministerial session and the commitments taken at COP28.

**Thank you for your attention!**