

National Statement
by Mrs. Raminta Radavičienė
Vice-Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania

Ms President,
Colleagues from all around the world,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Allow me to begin by expressing my gratitude to you, Ms President, and your team for the ministerial declaration for UNEA-6. This declaration strengthens international efforts to tackle triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution affecting our common environment.
- Combatting this crisis is essential for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and implementing Agenda 2030.
- Unfortunately, today the **environment is confronting unprecedented challenges. So are we.**
- Our world is witnessing the highest level of armed conflicts since 1945, while simultaneously facing ecosystemic crises.
- Lithuania once again emphasizes that the **biggest enemy of sustainable development is war. War** precipitates ecological and humanitarian catastrophes, setting back the progress of nations by decades or even centuries.
- We have just commemorated two years since Russia initiated its full-scale war against Ukraine. As Russia persists in its reprehensible attacks, which inflict death and destruction not only upon innocent civilians and civilian infrastructure but also have a highly detrimental impact on the environment, negatively affecting Ukraine's rich biodiversity, wildlife, and natural habitats, as well as spreading hazards to neighbouring countries.

- These crises transcend national borders and are interconnected. It is our shared responsibility to take bold actions now, and **environmental multilateralism is crucial** for that.
- Lithuania is undertaking bold measures to fulfil its ambitious commitments to achieve **climate neutrality and full circularity by 2050**.
- We have already reduced our GHG emissions by 58 percent since the 1990, while simultaneously maintaining steady GDP growth.
- We already derive more than a quarter of energy from renewables and will aim to elevate this proportion to 80% by 2050.
- To tackle the root causes of climate change and advance a circular economy, we have formulated five **sector-specific roadmaps for circularity in Lithuania**. Currently, we are actively advocating for **innovative business models**, transitioning from the sale of goods to the provision of services.
- **Lithuania also** lends its support to the establishment of a **comprehensive strategy for water and sanitation**, as well as the appointment of the UN Special Envoy for Water.
- **We are presently restructuring national drinking water supply and wastewater treatment sector** with the aim of enhancing the quality and accessibility of these services for all individuals.
- *Ms President, dear colleagues,*
- **Nature plays a vital role in sustaining life on Earth**, while UNEA serves as a powerful forum advocating for nature. I firmly believe that our collective commitments today will pave the way for the new norms of tomorrow.