

## **Montenegrin contribution to the proposed contribution of UNEA to HLPF**

By adopting the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, world leaders committed to build a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice and equality without any form of discrimination. A sustainable society is a tolerant society, in which every individual is enabled to live up to his/her potential and therefore to increase the potential of the society itself. In Montenegro's view, this is a society in which: the promotion of continual, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the improvement of the state of human resources, the strengthening of social inclusion and support for values, norms and behaviour patterns are pursued as being significant for the sustainability of the society, for equal and productive employment and a decent job for everyone.

Through the work of UNEA we have an unique opportunity to strengthen the voice of the environment and the environmental pillar of sustainable development, and to offer widely acceptable flexible and effective solutions. Being aware of the complexity of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we have to pay particular attention to empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality through delivering the environmental dimension. Preserving the environment on one hand, and inclusiveness and equality on the other, can work together, remaining central on the list of sustainable development priorities. This may be achieved by restoring and sustaining a healthy environment, primarily by decreasing anthropogenic pressures on natural resources and providing an interface between a healthy environment and healthy people.

Bearing in mind the importance of this year's theme of the High-Level Political Forum, Montenegro would like to encourage and support UN Environment's leadership in delivering the environmental dimension of the 2030 UN Agenda. It provides a great opportunity to increase the visibility of UN Environment and strengthen its presence at the regional and national levels in implementing sustainable development goals.

Strong support and commitment from us, the supporters and partners of the UN Environment family, are needed to ensure streamlining of the UN 2030 Agenda into the Programme of Work of UN Environment and recognition of UN Environment as a credible counterpart to supporting global, regional and national endeavours towards achievement of SDGs targets. In saying this, I would like to draw attention to some of the most relevant SDG targets, around which we should build UNEA's contribution to discussion during the 2019 HLPF:

- 3.9: By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination;
- 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing the release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally;
- 11.6: By 2030, reduce the adverse per-capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management;
- 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all waste throughout their lifecycle, in accordance with the agreed international framework, and significantly reduce their release into the air, water and soil in order to minimize the adverse impacts on human health and the environment;
- 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

These SDG targets can work well with the priorities related to empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness, shaping the present and future actions of UN Environment around priorities such as the following:

- Improve resource efficiency in key economic sectors;
- Improve waste management towards a circular economy;

- Support the sustainable valorisation and preservation of marine resources and a blue economy;
- Green the economy by promoting and implementing sustainable consumption and production;
- Apply social responsibility tools;
- Increase the competitiveness of the economy through green jobs.

All the above-listed priorities take centre place in the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Montenegro to 2030, which recognizes the protection of natural capital as the key priority theme for the sustainability of Montenegrin society. This is the national policy framework through which integration of the UN 2030 Agenda is ensured, whilst defining the strategic goals and measures for adequate management of human and social resources, hand-in-hand with the protection of natural capital.

To that end, Montenegro would like to contribute to the profiling of UN Environment's mandate in empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality through discussing the following priorities:

- Social stability and sustainability, adequate management of social and human resources, taking measures to improve social solidarity, inclusion and protection (SDGs: 4, 8, 10, 16);
- Improved employability, by ensuring sustainable, inclusive and balanced economic development (SDGs: 8, 10);
- Inclusive education and promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for everybody;
- An environmental dimension related to the protection of human health and the conservation of valuable natural resources, including climate change and its impacts (SDGs: 8, 13, 16);
- Providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and building a global partnership for sustainable development (SDGs 16, 17).

Therefore, it is necessary that all Member States and UN Environment actively engage in the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring its full integration into the UN Environment Programme of Work, as a model for the integration of an environmental dimension into the global sustainable development platform.