



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISË
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT

MAY–JUNE 2021 CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

**Distinguished President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Many countries are increasingly vulnerable to destructive weather events - floods, droughts, windstorms, or other parameters. Albania ranks highest amongst European countries in terms of exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards and extreme events. On one hand Albania shows the highest level of drought severity per decade in Europe on the other hand recurring floods caused damage leaving 569,210 people directly affected.

The changing weather patterns, the increasing temperatures, decreasing precipitation, the frequent extreme events of the last decade are heavily affecting the economy of the country with the agriculture and energy sectors being the more affected ones.

In order to address these impending challenges, policy makers in the country are working on different initiatives.

The Albanian Government has expressed a clear political will and commitment to comply with the requirements and obligations embedded in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and other related protocols and documents.

The Ministry of Tourism and Environment on behalf of Albanian Government and lately under the coordination of NDC Partnership has tried to respond to those challenges with concrete policies and programs, as well as by significantly enhancing cooperation with our key development partners such as GEF, WB, UNDP, UNEP, EU, GIZ, USAID and other international donors and institutions.

Regarding **adaptation to climate change**, there is currently an effort to raise awareness and increase capacity building at central and local level to adapt to climate change. Ministry of Tourism and Environment with the support of NDC Partnership and FAO started an awareness raising campaign “Together for Climate”. Youth People got to learn how can they help fight Climate Change and were invited to join environmental organizations or groups; participating in various governmental, non-governmental, school or community programs and projects against climate change; joining clean-up activities at school or in community; participating in tree planting and go-green activities; garbage picking and recycling initiatives.

Regarding **mitigation of climate change**, Albania has shown continuous commitment to reduce the greenhouse gases emissions from economic sectors, but also increase the GHG sinks through the ambitious forest planting policies

Furthermore, the Republic of Albania with the support of NDC Partnership and UNDP is finalizing the process to revise its NDC before COP26 as part of its commitments under the national climate agenda and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Youth people for the first time were part of the public consultations during the process for the revision of the NDC.

More specifically, the revised NDC will be enhanced in the following ways:

- aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20.9% by 2030
- will cover gases other than CO₂ (i.e. CH₄, N₂O, F-gases), that were not included in the first NDC;
- will cover all emission sectors: Energy; Industrial processes; Agriculture, LULUCF, and Waste. The first NDC only covered Energy and Industrial processes.
- will consider potential ways for enhancing the country's climate ambition, in accordance with the Paris agreement framework and the need of a collective raise of climate pledge to reach the aim to limit global warming to +2°C and even +1,5°C.
- will include climate change adaptation measures and an aim at mainstreaming climate change adaptation into relevant development and sectoral strategies (this will represent an enhancement in terms of increased geographic and sectoral coverage (including new sectors), as mentioned, the initial NDC did not include an adaptation component).
- will reflect Albania's specificities: the use of renewable sources for electricity production (95% hydro power, meaning low emissions for energy but a high vulnerability to climate change), the demand in fuel wood, the need to set up a register for waste generated by industrial and non-household activities, the lack of collection and treatment system for the waste water, the lack of cadastre for a national precise monitoring of land use changes, the concentration of population, infrastructure and touristic activities along the coast

To support the objectives of the European Union Green Deal, Albania and the Western Balkan countries signed two Declarations at the Sofia Summit in November 2020: the Western Balkan countries on the Green Agenda, as well as the creation of a Common Regional Market which aim to make the economy sustainable and climate-neutral by 2050, through a set of comprehensive political and financial initiatives and reforms.

Ministry of Tourism and Environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy with the support of GIZ is engaged in the process of drafting the National Climate and Energy Plan, in accordance with the legal framework of the Energy Community and the EU Acquis, in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the economies of the Western Balkans through integrating climate change measures into all relevant sectoral policies.

However, stronger efforts are expected by the international community on climate change to increase support and secure target implementation means (financing, technology development and transfer, and capacity building) as fundamental for nations to raise their ambitions for climate change mitigation in line with Paris Agreement, and do more and beyond while trying to become

resilient to climate change impacts. At this point, effective and meaningful implementation of previous UNFCCC COP decisions, particularly, the ones promoting international cooperative actions, like Lima Call for Climate Action is very critical to reach the set objectives. It is to be reaffirmed that the financial mechanisms of the Convention and Convention mediated funds should secure for adequate and predictable financial resources for developing and vulnerable countries.

I would like to reiterate Albania's commitments to address climate change issues and offer its contribution towards, carbon emissions reductions.

Thank you for your attention!