

Dear Mr President,  
Your Excellences,

Planet Earth is our common home where we live and create, making a better future for new generations. Our efforts contribute to faster development and there is no development without energy. Being aware of how important energy is for mankind, but also how important is the way in which we generate and use energy, we have developed a clear common vision. This vision does not make a difference between our countries based on their size or economic power, but based on the responsibility of their leaders to implement what we agreed on.

Montenegro has supported the Sustainable Development Agenda by 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement. We also comply with the guidelines of the Framework Climate Change Convention. Montenegro is a small country, with the annual generation of about 3,500 Gigawatt hours (gWh), but our commitment to the common goals is strong. During the last decade we were building only small energy generation facilities using renewable power of water, wind and sun. This means that we took very seriously the warnings coming from scientist from around the globe about how needed it is to reduce emission of greenhouse gases. We undertook to reduce by 2030 the emissions by 30% in comparison to the baseline from 1990. We have achieved this particular target already. In the preparations for the UN climate conference in Glasgow we updated our nationally determined contribution and we raised the bar to 35%, with a potential for further improvements.

I would like to share three thoughts with you:

Firstly, the Covid-19 crisis confirmed how important it is to have a science-based approach in development of all policies, including the energy policy. I think it is very important that we affirm stronger role of science and research in seeking for the solution to energy challenges that we are becoming increasingly aware of. Facts based on science have to lie in the foundations of the policies with global impact.

Secondly, latest developments in certain industries indicate to the potential of clean energy. Our obligation is to encourage all those that are investing huge efforts to change entire production concepts. Clean, low-carbon, and safe but efficient energy should be the basis for new development. That is why we have to provide stronger support to the shift to clean energy. Montenegro welcomes the initiative of all countries that are already working on absolutely clean energy and supports articulation of a joint vision and cooperation with the countries that advocate clean energy production.

Thirdly, as an ecological state, Montenegro strongly supports all activities aimed at mitigation of climate change and strengthening of the awareness that economic development should be ensured with the maximum protection of the environment. Only in that way can we ensure better protection of global biodiversity in the years to come. According to the European green deal and EU energy policy we plan further development of our energy sector through green energy transition and decarbonisation, increasing the use of energy from renewable sources and improving energy efficiency, building the infrastructure to connect with the neighbouring energy systems.

Ensuring a just and inclusive transition towards climate neutrality we want to turn climate and environmental challenges into opportunities and our competitive advantage. I believe that through dedicated work we will succeed and use the Decade of Action in the best possible way.

Thank you.