



Statement by H.E. Mr. Irakli Garibashvili, Prime Minister of Georgia
Climate Summit 2014

23 September 2014, New York

Your Excellency, Mr. Secretary-General,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me to express my appreciation to the Secretary General for inviting all of us to this timely and important event to stimulate international action for a new meaningful agreement on climate change. The time for action is now before climate change creates widespread and unpredictable change around the world and jeopardizes the lives of millions of people.

No country is immune to climate change. Climate change poses a direct threat to our security. Climate change's adverse impact on our ecosystem and economy motivates Georgia's commitment to sustainable development. In Georgia, climate change is leading to increased warming, the reduction of water supply in important trans-boundary basins, extreme weather events, and climate-related hazards.

Due to our complex mountainous topography Georgia is prone to natural hazards, including floods, landslides, and mudflows.

Due to the sea level rise, storms and coast erosion process has intensified, resulting in the destruction of coastline and infrastructure.

Therefore, I fully share all concerns expressed by distinguished delegates and subscribe to the joint call to effectively address the existing challenges. I urge that a new agreement should strengthen the continued efforts of all Parties to help the most vulnerable countries in adapting to climate change and contribute to achieving climate-resilient sustainable development. The new agreement should be built

upon the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage to ensure that this issue is given a central place.

Georgia is committed to progressive action on mitigating climate change. The Government of Georgia also reiterates its readiness to formulate an ambitious Intended Nationally Determined Contribution ahead of the 2015 Conference of the Parties in Paris.

Georgia is already taking progressive action on climate change now: we are currently preparing a Low Emission Development Strategy together with the US Government, which will provide an integrated comprehensive pathway for long-term, sustainable development and help to meet international climate change commitments.

In parallel, Georgia is working on the National Appropriate Mitigation Actions. Georgia is proud to have achieved the first match in the UNFCCC NAMA registry, and will now be supported by Austria in the preparation of a NAMA in the forestry sector.

The Government of Georgia has already adopted a new National Forest Policy last year to help this process. We are also planning a NAMA together with the German Government to support energy efficiency projects, especially in public buildings.

Georgia, due to its large hydropower potential, is using renewable energy to provide more than 80% of its electricity. We have launched a new strategy to enhance renewable energy development.

Simply put, our ambition is for Georgia to be a hydropower giant. We will not only power our own country with hydropower, but be a major clean power supplier to the region. Factoring in our extensive tree coverage, Georgia is doing its utmost to remove carbon from the atmosphere and reduce the amount of carbon it produces.

The role of cities is also very important in Georgia. Supported by the central government, 8 cities in Georgia, representing more than half the population, have joined the "Covenant of Mayors" EU program, committing themselves to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020.

Through all these activities - developing renewable energy resources, promoting energy efficiency, proper management of forests, and supporting local climate action, Georgia will strive to become a carbon neutral country by 2050.

The Government of Georgia is fully ready to contribute to international efforts to counter the existing threats related to climate change. I do believe that strong action by the international community is the most pragmatic instrument to reduce potential threats to human well-being and security.

I thank you.