

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my special pleasure to address the high-level segment of the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC. I would like to thank the UNFCCC Secretariat, for arrangements to organize this Climate Change Conference. I would like to thank also, the Indonesian Government for hosting this event, in such a wonderful place like Bali.

We are here today, to bring the political attention to this event, which I hope, is following the historical and never-happened-before journey that the climate change issue, has had in the course of this year.

The Government of Albania, considers the environment as one of its most important questions, and among others, it is committed to fulfil all the obligations, deriving from Global UN Conventions, such as Climate Change Convention.

In this context, we have launched new projects and different events on climate change. On the top of these, stand the revised environmental strategy, and many laws that address the climate change concern.

Studies carried out through the assistance of UN, show that Albania contributes, with relatively low levels of emissions. This is because over than 95% of Albania's electricity is produced from hydro sources, and high - energy – intensity industries, are no longer operating. While bearing little responsibility, for the global greenhouse gas emissions, Albania is bearing the majority of the environmental, social and economic consequences caused from climate change. Climate change has affected Albania with increased temperatures, less precipitation and other consequences. Less rain means less water, more droughts, less hydroelectricity, which is affecting the economic development.

Albania, is aiming to promote sustainable development, and energy is a prerequisite to achieve it. This is definitively a challenge, that brings together two important concerns: the energy security and climate change.

Albania's needs for adaptation are significant, and we do hope, that the available funds of adaptation, will properly respond to its efforts, to cope with adaptation and address climate change risk.

Through its fiscal policies, promotion of renewable energy sources, and making operational its institutions dealing with carbon finance mechanisms, Albania has increased its capacity to deliver CDM projects. The first ERPA (Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement) has been signed between the Government of Albania and the Bio Carbon Fund of the World Bank. This Agreement aims the realisation of a community based carbon sequestration and reforestation activities. Two other Cooperation Agreements are signed with the Government of Italy and Denmark.

Albania has a potential for cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, which are generated as a result of outdated and inefficient energy consumption and relatively unexploited sources of renewable energy. In such circumstances, only during 2007, Albanian Government has supported the investments of about 50 Small Hydro Power Plants and it will continue to do so in the years to come. Also, taking advantage from favourable environmental conditions, the production of about 1000 Mwat from wind farms will become soon a reality.

Mr. President,

Albania will continue to keep the low level of green house gas emissions while getting developed, providing its modest contribution for saving our planet from the climate changes, implementing the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and any platform, to come out of this conference.

Thank you!