



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
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HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2020

Virtual Session “*Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs: Protecting the planet and building resilience*”

Statement

by Mr. Iulian STANA, Secretary of State,

Ministry of Environment Waters and Forests of Romania

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Mister Chairman,
Excellences,
Distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you at this session on a very emerging issue regarding *Protecting the planet and building resilience* after one of the worst health and economic crisis since the Second World War - Covid -19 pandemic crisis.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put unforeseen pressures on our society and it reduced the resilience of our key systems to shocks. Globally, we have witnessed the cascading collapse of the entire social, economic and health system.

Taking into account the latest scientific reports, we know without a doubt that our planet faces two immense threats: climate change and biodiversity loss. A global crisis for climate and nature. A million species are facing extinction as climate change intensifies. It is a big pressure on wildlife and its habitats. This crisis revealed to us that the planet has limited capacity to satisfy human's unlimited needs.

But in the same time, this crisis has created us a big opportunity to action and to reverse nature loss and boost the economic recovery for the long-term through major investments into key sectors of the global economy.

It is crucial to take into account a major project of transformation, we have to focus on the climate transition that means the transformation in an unprecedented way of our society, in order to protect natural resources and increase the circular nature of our economy.

This crisis revealed to us that the planet has limited capacity to satisfy human's unlimited needs.

We also learned due to this crisis *to design the unknown* and to build capabilities in order to tackle imbalances with more solidarity, resilience and mutual support.

We also recognize that economic growth in itself is not a single condition; we have to take into account social inequalities and disparities that represent the obstacles in the path to prosperity. We have to apply nature-based solutions through capitalizing of ecosystems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and also to reduce biodiversity loss.

We believe that we need to take an integrated approach to ecological recovery and for the restoration of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

We fully agree that it has to accelerate the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement, and we must apply the nature priorities and criteria in order to have an ecologic recovery based on low carbon economy, resilient water and food systems infrastructure, renewable energy and green jobs linking the economic recovery to countries' climate commitments.

In this context we have to promote sustainable investments but it is imperative to tackle urgent action to prevent hunger, in order to strengthen partnership and international cooperation.

We have to remain focused on people and *leave no one behind*.

Thank you and good health to all of you!