

General debate of the High-level segment of ECOSOC and High-level political forum on sustainable development (4 minutes)

Building momentum towards the SDG Summit: Transformation for accelerating implementation of the SDGs

Delivered by

**H.E. Dr. Nikolina Brnjac, Minister of Tourism and Sport
of the Republic of Croatia**

Madam President/Madam/Mister Vice-President

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Tomorrow I will have the honor of presenting Croatia's second Voluntary National Review report, as adopted by the Croatian National Council for Sustainable Development, chaired by the Prime Minister.
- Croatia is doing its part in the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development. We have defined a clear vision of our future development in our National Development Strategy until 2030, where we have committed to implementing all seventeen Sustainable Development Goals based on three parallel processes: digital transformation, demographic renewal, and green transition.
- The rise of Croatia to a high 12th place among 166 countries according to the 2023 Sustainable Development Report is a confirmation of success and an incentive for further progress.

- As the youngest European Union member state, that celebrated its 10th anniversary of membership on 1st July this year, Croatia continues bridging the economic gap between itself and the developed economies of the European Union, without compromising its climate commitments, which it implements simultaneously.
- The European Commission's 2023 Country Report for Croatia shows that Croatia ranks above the EU average in eight goals, while making progress in all Sustainable Development Goals.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- The world today is very different from 2015, when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals were adopted.
- We are faced with interlinked crises compounded by the Russian aggression against Ukraine. This is an example how local conflicts can have immense global economic and social consequences. Croatia, which itself was a victim of military aggression in the early 1990s, and managed to defend and liberate itself, recover economically and join NATO and the European Union, firmly stands by Ukraine.

- As a responsible international actor, chairing the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission this year and being a member of the Economic and Social Council for the period 2022 - 2024, Croatia will continue to support the Charter of the UN, multilateralism and solidarity based on strong interlinkages between peace and security, development and human rights together with humanitarian work.
- We are determined to come to the SDG Summit with concrete commitments that Croatia has undertaken nationally, as just elaborated, and will support globally through its work at the United Nations and the European Union. We stand ready to support and share our experiences and lessons learned with our neighbors, especially in the South-East Europe, and with wider international community to achieve a better world for current and future generations.
- Thank you.