**conclusion – Climate change dialogue**

This day and the panel discussions highlighted the importance of the topic of fight against climate change on global as well as on national level. It is a great pleasure to gather in one place so many significant actors: from the decision makers, representatives of international community, economy, youth, civil society, media to experts, because only with joined forces we can reach concrete results.

As we all know, from 6th to 18th of November 2022. the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt will host the 27th Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC (COP 27) with a view to building on previous successes and paving the way for future ambition to effectively tackle the global challenge of climate change. It is already clear that the existing ambitions of countries and measures are not enough and that we are to expect an increase in the average t from 2.1 to 2.9C by the end of the century. We must do more! The current security and energy crisis in Europe and the world are an additional challenge for countries to achieve energy security on the one hand, and reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, on the other. These two premises are key elements for the survival and sustainability of the economy.

Today we discussed clear indicators of the importance of this topic for the Republic of Serbia. One of the key obligations was fulfilled by submitting an updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC): with which Serbia increased its ambitions in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 13.2% compared to the level of 2010 until 2030 (ie 33, 3% compared to 1990). In addition, Serbia is intensively working on finalizing the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan for the period from 2023 to 2030, with a vision until 2050, which showcases the direction of energy development of the Republic of Serbia and whose adoption is expected by the end of the year. Another key document that we expect soon is the Low Carbon Development Strategy for Serbia. With this, we will clearly trace the path of decarbonization of the economy and society. At the same time, together with our partners from the Ministry of Mining and Energy, with the support of the Government of Japan and the EBRD, we are making sure that this Green transformation of the economy is not only planned and fast, but also fair.

Climate change will especially affect our agriculture, but also the establishment of the new energy policy of Serbia. As it has been emphasized several times, including in the exposé of the Prime Minister of Serbia, the top priority of the Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Ministry of Environmental Protection remains sustainable economic development, but with strict consideration of environmental protection and the well-being of all citizens. Within the framework of the Development Plan, Serbia will continue with investments in sustainable energy systems, but also with investments focusing on the green transformation of the economy and environmental protection.

The potential of decarbonization for the development of the economy and for overall society is also of key importance in the fight against the energy crisis. That is why we talked about supporting the economy and industry in the transition to cleaner technologies and green business models. One of the key mechanisms is the execution of the Green Agenda in Serbia. We have identified over 140 economic projects that can accelerate the green transformation. On that path both partnerships and finances are important. Pooled financing, more green loans and innovative financial instruments like green bonds are the key to success. It is still important to improve the policies, laws and strategies needed for the green transformation of the economy. In this regard, we greatly appreciate the support of the European Union (EU), the Government of Switzerland, Sweden, the European Investment Bank and the UN Development Program, as well as the support we have in all relevant institutions of the Government of Serbia, the economy, science and civil society. We also appreciate the cooperation with the French Development Agency, the World Bank, and the EBRD on this path, and we also expect a significant contribution from the current German-Serbian climate partnership.

Last year, the Republic of Serbia acquired means for "green financing", a EUR 1 billion green bond, and will continue to encourage investors' confidence in green projects of both public and private sectors. I invite all participants to identify projects for green financing and investments in green technologies as well as employment opportunities so that this transition to low-carbon development is as easy as possible for the most vulnerable citizens. A great deal of effort was invested by the Government of the Republic of Serbia in order to kickstart the aforementioned processes and I must say that we are going to COP27 proud of the steps we had taken and with the concrete results we have as a country.

Adaptation to changed climate conditions is no less important topic that we talked about today. At the beginning of 2023, we expect the adoption of the first National Program for adaptation to climate change, with an action plan. This document will define priority measures and mechanisms for urgently strengthening the resilience of the economy and society of Serbia to climate challenges, all with the aim of preventing damages and losses that we all suffer. We are convinced that the Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy will also be an important tool for achieving these goals. In the process of drafting this and other documents, the Ministry will ensure the participation of all interested parties, in accordance with the legal framework.

Also, in order to make climate risks, as well as the risks of other natural disasters and disasters, available to everyone, including local self-government units, as well as to economy and citizens, we have provided two latest products backed by Serbian science, European and domestic data: Climate Atlas of Serbia and the Register of Risks from Natural Disasters and Disasters. We expect that the application of these tools will further accelerate the achievement of resilience at all levels.

I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the participants of today's conference, panelists, moderators who made a huge contribution and opened a dialogue on important topics. I thank the youth for their willingness to get involved and help their country with their energy and knowledge. Also, thanks to the Government of Egypt for the important messages to meet the CoP, and thanks to the UN Development Program and the UN Office in Serbia for their organizational support.

I would also like to thank everyone who took the time to follow online and showed interest by actively participating in the discussions. I want to close this conference with the message that it is very important that we all take on our role in the fight against the climate crisis, but also our responsibility. The responsibility is on all of us because we have only one home, only one planet to live on.