



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

MINISTRY FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Albanian National Statement

ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment

23 June 2021

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

COVID-19 pandemic has diverted international attention and resources away from other important world challenges, such as climate change, human rights, conflict prevention, poverty, rising inequalities, human insecurity, international terrorism, and organized crime. This global crisis brings a compelling imperative for change through collective action to look after those most vulnerable.

International humanitarian system is being tested like never before because of challenges such as forced migration, climate crisis and access to medicines which contribute to rising inequalities, economic and geopolitical shifts, changing nature of violence, internal and cross-border displacement and rise of conflicts.

Respect of International Humanitarian Law is fundamental, enhanced international coordination, leadership, accountability, greater professionalism, more rapid and reliable financing and wider protection against abuses of basic rights of the most vulnerable in the wake of disasters and crises is needed to address the humanitarian response to several challenges.

Albania fully supports the UN's central coordinating role in emergencies and highly appreciates the UN Secretary General efforts in launching the Global Humanitarian Response Plan to ensure the most effective and efficient humanitarian response for all the countries. No country, however big or powerful, can address alone the complex challenges, we are facing today.

In this vein, Albania has co-sponsored two GA landmark Resolutions "Global Solidarity to Fight COVID-19" and "International cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment to face COVID-19", pledging global solidarity to fight the coronavirus and to boost international cooperation to ensure global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment.

During the Generation Equality Forum which will take place on 30 June – 02 July 2021, in Paris, the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action will be launched (WPS-HA), seeking to drive a global inter-generational movement to implement our existing commitments on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action. WPS-HA calls for international action to redesign peace, security, and humanitarian processes to systematically dismantle barriers and meaningfully include women and girls, including peacebuilders, refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls, in the decisions that impact their lives and that shape their societies, without discrimination to their diverse and intersecting identities.

Albania, following its election as a non-permanent member to the Security Council for the term 2022-2023 will use this position to ensure the full implementation of the existing Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, and will request briefers as well as UN leadership to systematically share gender analysis and information about concrete efforts to ensure women's equal participation in all areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

At the national level, Albania is committed to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325. We have adopted a costed and budgeted National Action Plan and have increased the participation of women in the security sector.

We believe that the WPS agenda is not only focused on women's issues but, in a broader sense, is cross-cutting with other security issues. Interaction of gender issues with peace and security is still a challenge to be addressed. This is because no lasting or sustainable peace can be achieved without women's meaningful engagement.

To mark the twentieth anniversary of UNSCR 1325 (during the year 2020), the Albanian OSCE Chair-in-Office made Women, Peace and Security a key priority. We are focusing on women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peace and security processes and decision-making – as well as their protection from conflict-related violence. The international

community should come together in addressing properly the need for safe environments for women as leaders, peace builders, human rights defenders and political actors.

Each year, millions of people are affected by climate related hazards and even more will be affected by disasters in the very near future, as climate change and environmental mismanagement create a proliferation of droughts, floods and other disasters. As a consequence, people will be vulnerable to disasters because of their poverty or location. And some of these environmental changes will also increase the threat of new conflicts, which will mean more people displaced and more need for humanitarian aid.

Many countries are increasingly vulnerable to destructive weather disasters, like floods, droughts, windstorms, or other natural catastrophes. Albania is one of the most vulnerable in the region, affected by the climate change trends. Changing weather patterns have already been observed over the last 15 years with increased temperatures, decreasing precipitation, and more frequent extreme events like floods and droughts.

Considering Climate change as one of the biggest challenges Humanity is facing, the Government of Albania is committed to contribute to the achievement of the UN's global goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% in the next decade and to net zero emissions by 2050.

In July 2019, Albania adopted the National Strategy on Climate Change and its Mitigation Action Plan of Greenhouses Gas emissions, as well as the National Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change, thus becoming among the first countries in the region with a Strategy on Climate Change.

Albania has been one of the world's first countries to ratify and hand over to UNO the ratification instruments for the Climate and Environmental Protection Agreement, COP 21, for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 for SDG.

We believe that there will be no development without a common approach against climate changes. Climate change, a defiant truth that some still dare to question, is putting at risk our very own survival. It constitutes one of the most fundamental challenges of our century, as it continues to cause increased humanitarian stress with disasters becoming more frequent and intense. Though the multilateral international order is facing now and then serious challenges, we fully agree that a rule-based international social order, is the best place to address challenges of our time.

Thank you.

