



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

SECOND AMBASSADORS' ROUNDTABLE ON INVESTING IN THE SDGs

UNCTAD

Statement by

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Thank you Mr. Co-chair,



I would like to also thank UNCTAD, the Division on Investment and Enterprise for organizing the Second Ambassadors' Roundtable. Our presence here today clearly demonstrates the commitment of international Geneva in the implementation of the SDGs and the Agenda 2030.

On a national level, several aspects have been identified as important for efficient and effective investments in SDGs:

1. Commitment at highest political level for SDGs implementation and their mainstreaming in national policies and strategies;
2. Recognizing and quantifying the potential of SDGs and the benefits of their implementation;
3. Developing a national institutional architecture for SDGs implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
4. Correlating SDGs with the investment policies and investment strategies.

North Macedonia is committed to the sustainable agenda and has adopted a National Strategy for Sustainable Development since 2010 and an Action Plan for Sustainable Development since 2015. By investing in SDGs we would like to ensure a sustainable development of the country that will enable a continued economic growth, job creation and increased wellbeing of citizens. On the other hand we believe that by implementing reforms in the areas of good governance, the rule of law, access to justice for all, protection of human rights and freedoms, independent institutions, transparency and accountability, we could contribute to achieving the best results of the implementation of the SDGs.

The Cabinet of the Deputy Prime minister in charge of economic affairs coordinates the process of implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs mainstreaming. The Deputy Prime minister is also chairing the National Council for Sustainable Development, which is the highest state body for SDGs implementation composed of governmental representatives, private and civil sector, as well as representatives of the academia. The process of integrating the SDGs has taken place in three phases: 1) Conducting national consultations with key line ministries, institutions and stakeholders; 2) Integrating the SDGs into the national strategic documents and local development plans and appropriately allocating funds from the state budget for implementation of the activities; 3) Establishing a monitoring system for integration of SDGs, as well as analyzing and measuring progress in their implementation, according to relevant methodologies.

At the beginning of 2019 the Government has decided to prioritize five SDGs for the period 2019-2020:

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere;

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning



opportunities for all;

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

It was agreed that the implementation of the other SDGs and targets will be streamlined through these five priorities.

Additionally, this year my country has expressed interest for presenting its first National Voluntary Review to the High Level Forum on Sustainable Development in 2020.

All of these government activities are important for encouraging the private sector and other potential international donors to invest in relevant SDG projects in the country. We are open for cooperation in different sectors, such as: energy, transport, climate change adaptation and mitigation, education, but also trade facilitation, improving customs systems across the Western Balkans, easier movement of goods, people and services in the Western Balkans region, support for start-ups, etc.

Our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as other agencies and state institutions for promotion of investments have been the spokespersons of the national sustainable development agenda and SDG-relevant investments and projects. I can reiterate the commitment of the Government for sustainable economic policies, through stimulating domestic and foreign companies in greenfield and brownfield investments, technological development, research and development and enhancement of companies' competitiveness.

Mr. Chair,

The UN is the meeting point for the private and public sector regarding SDGs. We welcome this kind of initiatives that bring together diplomats with practitioners and the business sector and we believe that every opportunity should be used for creating partnerships and synergies.

Finally, we note UNCTAD taking the lead initiative in working on SDGs and technology issues, within the scope of the UN interagency program - the "Technology Facilitation Mechanism", and we encourage the continuation of this and similar cooperation.

I thank you.