

**Intervention made by  
H.E. Alexander Maisuradze - Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN Office  
and other International Organizations in Geneva**

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**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

**Digital and green transformations for sustainable development in the region of the Economic  
Commission for Europe  
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Thank you Chair, Dear Participants, Dear Colleagues,

One cannot underestimate the importance of digital and green transformations for sustainable development in our region. We fully recognize the green economy opportunities and its potential for sustainable economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction. In this light, let me share few measures of my Government as regards the Digital and Green transformation

In 2016 Georgia has joined OECD Green Growth Declaration, which aims at implementation of the energy efficiency activities through low carbon sustainable economy, “smart”, safe and sustainable infrastructure, clean technologies, renewable sources of energy, and principles of research development. With the Government’s effort, the civil society organizations, academy of science and international partners Georgia started the development of the circular economy strategy and roadmap.

Let me also highlight that Georgia keeps its enhanced low carbon trajectory through increased reliance on renewable energy sources and a further reduction in the demand for fossil fuel. Georgia aims to develop coherent and sustainable Climate Change Policy and intends to meet its’ international obligations, namely to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate change (UNFCCC) and EU-Georgia Association Agreement. Georgia also approved “2030 Climate change strategy and Action Plan (CAP) 2021-2023”. In 2023, Georgia plans to update Climate Change action plan for 2024-25 (assistance of GIZ).

Georgia has prepared a long-Term low-Emission Development Strategy/Concept (LT LEDS). The document describes various scenarios for the development of the Georgian economy by 2050 and sets the corresponding emission targets. With this document, Georgia declares "carbon neutrality" as a goal and directs its efforts to achieve it by 2050.

Currently Georgia participates in the UE4Environment program, which aims to help Eastern partner countries to preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being. Within this program, we are cooperating with UNEP, UNECE, OECD and World Bank.

The energy security is another central pillar of sustainable development and Georgia, as an essential transit country, has already proved its credibility as a reliable partner. Georgia is also engaged in

local renewable energy projects. In this regard, Georgia is planning to implement Black Sea Submarine Cable Georgia - Romania project connecting South Caucasus Region directly to the South-East Europe via sub-marine cable crossing Black Sea.

Thanks to its geographic location and its well-rated business climate, Georgia has the potential to be a **regional digital hub**, which will help address challenges of limited international data connectivity and development of domestic IT capabilities. In this vein, the development of digital connectivity in the Black Sea is a priority for Georgia.

In cooperation with the World Bank, the elaboration of the **feasibility study and concept of the development of a digital corridor connecting the Europe-Asia via Black Sea and a digital hub in Georgia is in progress.**

Despite successes, we are facing significant challenges, namely unprovoked Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine causing devastating humanitarian crisis therein and devastating consequences for the whole world. Grave disregard of the principles and norms of international Law, completely depletes the achievements in the SDG implementation and obliterates the work already done. Georgia stands with Ukraine and continues to provide substantial humanitarian assistance to Ukraine and to extend support to Ukrainian citizens arriving to Georgia.

To conclude let me reiterate that Georgia stands ready to maintain active collaboration with the cooperation with partners, in order to further enhance a comprehensive green and digital transformation in all relevant fields.

Thank you.