

**Statement by Ms. Nino Tkhilava, Head of Environment and Climate Change
Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of
Georgia at the UN Climate Change Conference –
COP 25 on December 11, 2019 in Madrid, Kingdom of Spain**

Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It is my great pleasure to represent Georgia at COP25, and I have the privilege of expressing my sincere gratitude to the Chilean Presidency for its leadership and huge efforts in preparing for COP 25 and to the Government of the Kingdom of Spain and its people for their generous hospitality.

This year has been full of evidence of climate change impacts to our planet. We are all witnesses of the increased speed of the ocean ice melting and the increased frequency and severity of forest fires. In Georgia, glacial melting at the Great Caucasus range increases the fragility of our unique mountainous ecosystems, resulting in a devastating impact to Georgia's mountain-dwelling population and huge economic losses for the region.

The special report of the IPCC makes the urgent need for immediate action to combat climate change alarmingly clear. Yet higher-impact action is needed to reduce emissions if we are to achieve the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement.

Before the end of 2020, our common responsibility is to communicate increased ambition through our updated NDCs and long-term strategies on low-emission development pathways.

Georgia is updating its NDC in parallel with the elaboration of the country's Climate Action Plan for the period of 2021 to 2030, to ensure that Georgia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030 are kept at 40% below the level recorded in 1990. This shows that developing countries, such as ourselves, are capable of trying new ideas and setting ambitious goals.

Achieving Georgia's national climate change mitigation targets requires us to address relevant sectoral priorities and challenges. To this end, Georgia's CAP aims to identify a low carbon development pathway covering seven economic sectors. Georgia also believes that the power of markets can help us achieve our collective goals under the Paris Agreement. Here at COP 25, we have an opportunity to reach a common vision on carbon market development.

This COP provided us with a similar opportunity to finalize functional rules related to the enhanced transparency framework. We encourage all Parties to continue to work toward consensus so that we may implement this key feature of the Paris Agreement, as we have all agreed, no later than COP26 in Glasgow.

We must therefore use this COP to further clarify our operational understanding of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, the implementation of response measures, and how to mainstream gender to effectively implement climate policies at the national and international levels, understanding that these efforts cannot be effective unless the perspectives of developing countries in all regions of the world are considered. We must therefore also ensure that our efforts always take into account the principle of equitable geographical representation.

Now, let me conclude by expressing my hope that our efforts here, in Madrid, will represent a significant step forward in the protection of our Planet for ourselves and for future generations.

Thank you very much.