



SERBIA

2019 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

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STATEMENT

by

H.E. Mrs. Slavica Djukić Dejanović

**Minister without Portfolio responsible for Demography and Population Policy
of the Republic of Serbia**

17 July 2019, New York

Distinguished President of ECOSOC,
Excellences,
Distinguished Colleagues,

At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the President of ECOSOC Ambassador Inga Rhonda King for convening this annual High-Level Political Forum session and to greet all of you and express my pleasure in being part of this important event. This year's session is an opportunity for the international community, its Member States and other stakeholders, to evaluate progress made in the implementation of the Agenda so far, to re-assess lessons learned and further identify potentials, as well as challenges ahead of us.

This is the fourth year of growing into sustainability for all and everywhere in Serbia by implementing the Agenda 2030 and achieving the SDGs in coherence with its implementation in the EU. Today, we have presented our first Voluntary National Review that contains more information about the implementation of the Agenda in Serbia.

We see our EU accession process as the road to strengthening democracy, and achieving greater stability and progress in all three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. Quality education, decent work and economic growth and reduced inequalities remain at the core of the deep structural reforms in Serbia that are leaving no one behind. Our comprehensive and dedicated approach to the highest-aiming achievement of interlinked SDGs, especially the ones in focus of this year's session, and the fulfillment of the Paris Agreement commitments support the growth into sustainability for everyone and everywhere in Serbia.

The Republic of Serbia has demonstrated its strong commitment to enhancing regional cooperation towards implementation of SDGs by organizing the *Sub-regional Conference on Promoting Progress of the 2030 Agenda* in September 2018. The Conference brought together representatives of governments, private sector, academia, civil society, international financial institutions and development partners. It was a unique forum for the exchange of ideas, experiences and the achievements made so far in the implementation of the Agenda, highlighting and improving possibilities for an efficient and effective implementation of SDGs.

In conclusion, Madam President, guided by strong emphasis on the importance of the SDGs 16 and 17 on peaceful, inclusive societies and partnerships, Serbia is and always will be devoted to the policy of peace and the creation of prosperous and secure living conditions for everyone, everywhere.

Thank you.