

S T A T E M E N T

**by His Excellency Alen Simonyan, President of the National Assembly of the
Republic of Armenia at the General Debate**

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Getting to zero: Mobilizing parliaments to act on climate change

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Fellow parliamentarians,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish to thank our Indonesian hosts for the excellent organization of the Assembly and warm hospitality extended to all participants.

The topic we are discussing is of the utmost importance for the world, since climate change entails dangerous consequences. Global warming and other long-term climate change trends are expected to continue as a result of record levels of heat-trapping greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. As stated in the Outcome Document of the parliamentary meeting on the occasion of COP-26, the global temperature is expected to reach or exceed 1.5C of warming by 2040 and may trigger irreversible damage to our planet and endanger biodiversity.

Climate change - with its negative impact on human life, the environment, and economic development - is among the main challenges facing humankind. This is especially true for Armenia, as a land-locked, mountainous country.

Although as a country Armenia is making only a small contribution to greenhouse gas emissions, the country is taking active measures, such as the ratification of the Paris Agreement in February, 2017, to reduce carbon emissions, thereby contributing to the international community's efforts to address climate change.

On April 22, 2021 the Government approved Armenia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for a ten-year implementation period (2021-2030), setting a new unconditional mitigation target of 40% reduction below 1990 emissions levels, to be achieved in 2030.

For the first time, Armenia adopted its National Adaptation Plan of Action on Climate Change (2021-2025), aimed at supporting and improving synergies and coordination between and across sectoral initiatives.

Armenia approved its NDC for a ten-year implementation period 2021-2030 to the Paris Agreement, setting a new unconditional mitigation target of 40% reduction below 1990 emissions levels, to be achieved in 2030, and increasing its territories covered by forest by 12.9%.

My country is promoting policies to increase the share of renewable energy in the power generation sector, expanding solar generation on the demand side, promoting energy savings in all sectors of the economy, including expanding the supply of high-efficiency equipment in the industrial and building sectors, promoting eco-friendly vehicles, and improving road infrastructure in the transportation sector.

As we rebuild from the pandemic, additional significant efforts will be needed to promote a "green recovery" and ensure further carbon emission reduction. This will require a concerted effort across all sectors of the economy and society and primarily in the Energy sector, as the largest emitter of greenhouse gasses. Relevant legislative and regulatory reforms are under way. The most recently adopted Energy Sector Development Strategic Program aimed at increasing the share of solar energy generation in total to at least 15% by 2030.

Armenia aims to double the country's share of renewables in energy generation by 2030 on the path to achieve climate neutrality in the second half of this century. According to the Republic of Armenia Energy Sector Development Strategic Program (till 2040), the Armenian Government plans to increase the share of solar energy generation in total to at least 15%. To this end, several legislative and regulatory reforms have been implemented in recent years.

Colleagues,

As part of its climate commitments, Armenia has initiated a number of solar energy projects as a way to introduce a cost-effective renewable energy source in the country in line with its vision to foster low carbon generation and develop renewables.

Given the worldwide environmental challenges and their impact on climate and the pivotal role of nature conservation as a means to ensure social, economic, and environmentally sustainable development, I once again wish to reiterate our readiness to cooperate with the parliaments of all member states, agencies, international organizations, and the private sector in advancing the global environmental agenda.

Parliaments are responsible for ensuring the implementation of conventions and agreements, as well as national legislation, including and especially on environmental issues, and I would like to state that our National Assembly is duly overseeing these processes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I believe that we are responsible for a safe and secure planet for our children and future generations.

Thank you for your attention.