

Dear colleagues, Excellencies,

Your Excellency Executive Vice-President of the European Commission,
Distinguished ministers,

First of all I wish you and your beloved ones to stay safe and healthy.

On behalf of the Russian Federation I would like to thank the organisers of the 4th Ministerial on Climate Action for the opportunity to see and hear each other during this videoconference.

MOCA is gradually establishing itself as a unique and important platform which gives the opportunity to share views on a wide range of climate issues. I would like to inform you that since the last meeting Russia has joined the Paris Agreement, has been developing a low-carbon economic development strategy which includes active engagement in the international cooperation. The Russian government is working on a project based approach, we are now implementing an ambitious action plan - “Ecology” which outlines a whole set of complex environmental measures in the country.

No matter how uncertain the long-term socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is, we should start discussing further development now, taking into account the significance of paying greater attention to such a global challenge for the humankind as climate change.

The sudden shift in the situation during recent months due to COVID-19 has exposed urgent problems which have always been postponed until better times, showing us the necessity to solve them right now.

Economically it concerns the change of consumption models, access to services, distant working possibilities and the demand for new skills on the labour market. As for the protection of environment it, first of all, means responsible use of energy, real reduction of emissions and any other types of pollution including air, soil and water as well as general anthropogenic pressure on the environment, including the vital sphere of biodiversity.

In this regard the key issues of today's discussion – the link between economic recovery plans and the implementation of the Paris Agreement and establishment of conditions which will enable us to build a better future – will become increasingly relevant when politicians all over the world take key decisions.

The Russian Federation considers it necessary that current crisis which has affected all the countries with no exception, notwithstanding their social structure and level of development, is taken advantage of, so that we realise the importance of making global decisions which take into account the needs of every country to the full extent, leaving nobody behind.

It is crucial to resist the temptation of enhancing the economic protectionism and isolation measures under the pretext of fight against climate change and the Paris Agreement goals specific interpretation. Unilateral imposing of any standards not approved by universal international platforms, including the ones of the UN system, may not only seriously aggravate the already existing misunderstandings but also lead to new rounds of “trade wars” with no set rules and new frontiers among nations. This, in the first place, will affect the well-being of ordinary citizens. As a result of these steps the main “victims” will be environment and climate cooperation. In this regard the primary goal is to achieve a rational balance. The level of the economy greening should not become a new “watershed”.

It is necessary to follow the green recovery strategy and join forces in creating an ambitious agenda in order to protect the environment. From our perspective, the key condition for both people and nature to benefit from the economic growth in the post-pandemic era is to create inclusive development and international trade model which will provide indiscriminate access to technologies and financial resources, primarily for businesses, while introducing the system of positive stimulation of GHG reduction.

Thank you for your attention.