

DUBROVNIK DECLARATION

Endorsed at the Second Ministerial Meeting on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans
Dubrovnik, Croatia | 14 October 2025

We, the participants from the Western Balkans Six (WB6), gathered in Dubrovnik on the occasion of the **Second Annual Ministerial Meeting on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans**, organised under the auspices of the **Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)**, in collaboration with the **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ)** and with the support of the **European Commission**, convened under the **United Kingdom's Chairmanship of the 2025 Berlin Process**, REAFFIRM our strong political commitment to implement the **Green Agenda for the Western Balkans (GAWB)** as a transformative pathway to sustainable development, climate neutrality, biodiversity and environmental resilience in line with the **European Green Deal and integration with the EU**.

Recalling the **Hamburg Declaration** adopted at the First Ministerial Meeting in 2024, and building upon the outcomes of the 2024 Berlin Process Summit and the ongoing implementation of the **Green Agenda for the Western Balkans Action Plan (2021–2030)**, WE:

REAFFIRM regional commitment and ownership and uphold the GAWB as regionally owned political framework aligned with the European Green Deal, supporting the gradual work towards climate neutrality and resource-efficient, circular, and pollution-free societies, while ensuring a just and inclusive transition for all, in line with the requirements of economic growth;

RECOGNISE the importance of regional cooperation and commend the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) for its leadership in coordinating and steering the GAWB processes, as well as our regional partners for their dedicated contributions across all pillars of the Agenda;

ACKNOWLEDGE the progress achieved, while noting the remaining gaps in aligning policies with the GAWB, and commend the collective efforts of all stakeholders in driving this agenda forward;

BEING AWARE of the challenges in implementation, including limited financial and technical capacities, **STRESS** the urgent need for enhanced regional coordination and the importance of effective alignment and strong support from donors, while enabling the existing climate finance mechanisms for all the WB6, for our joint efforts to accelerate the implementation of GAWB.

We hereby endorse the following strategic regional documents:

- The **Revised GAWB Action Plan**, which integrates regionally agreed and enhanced targets, indicators, and updated actions aligned with new EU policy developments and adjusted to the WB6 context;

- The **WB6 Climate Adaptation Roadmap**, providing a structured approach to increasing regional resilience to climate change and paving the way for the development of a WB6 Adaptation Strategy by 2026;
- The **Regional Action Plan on Plastic Pollution Prevention, including Marine Litter** which operationalises the Regional Joint Statement endorsed in 2023 by outlining 6 goals, 26 measures, and 100 activities aimed at safeguarding marine and riverine environments, as well as marine resources and ecosystems;
- The **Outline of the WB6 Biodiversity Strategic Plan**, which sets the foundation for a regional response to biodiversity loss and nature restoration planning in alignment with EU Policy and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework including other biodiversity related agreements; and
- The **GAWB Action Plan - Implementation Report 2024** which assesses the progress across all seven components of the Action Plan, identifies challenges, and proposes necessary adjustments, and REAFFIRM commitment to addressing these challenges to ensure full achievement of the Action Plan's objectives.

We underline *the importance of* addressing the social and labour market impacts of the energy transition, with a focus on coal sector workers and their communities, women, Roma, youth, rural and low-income households, and other vulnerable groups. We **CALL** for targeted re-skilling and up-skilling programmes, improved social protection, gender-sensitive and inclusive policies, and domestic cohesion measures to ensure that no one is left behind in the green transition.

We commit to:

- Intensifying the pace of implementation of GAWB actions across all five pillars, strengthening coordination through the **Regional Working Group on GAWB**, supported by the RCC, and establishing thematic expert working groups according to the GAWB pillars, as needed;
- Advancing regional cooperation on issues such as energy integration, climate mitigation and adaptation, pollution control, nature protection and biodiversity conservation;
- Enhancing transparency and monitoring through the establishment of the **GAWB Observatory Platform** as a digital tool for tracking progress and sharing data on the implementation of GAWB, hosted by RCC.

We call on the European Commission and bilateral and multilateral donors to continue supporting and to expand their support for GAWB implementation through the **Growth Plan for the Western Balkans, IPA III**, and other climate and environment-related instruments;

We reiterate the importance of involving all stakeholders, including civil society, academia, youth, and underrepresented groups, in shaping and delivering the green transition;

We agree to reconvene, in 2026, to review further progress, and consider and endorse additional strategic initiatives to further improve the implementation of the GAWB.