Dear Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address you on behalf of Montenegro at the ceremony marking this significant jubilee - the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Without any doubt, the decision of the leaders of the world after the Second World War to establish a new Universal Organization represents the most significant event in the history of international relations. After the tragic experiences of the world wars, the states decided to turn a new page in history and to create a new Organization that would deal with collective security on the principles of equality of states and nations, human rights, their dignity and improvement of life quality for all.

Anniversaries like this give us an opportunity to look back on our past work and common successes, to assess some shortcomings in the functioning of the Organization, but also to reiterate our strong commitment to the principles and goals of the United Nations.

The current unprecedented crisis caused by COVID-19 pandemic and the leading role of the United Nations in providing medical assistance to the countries all around the world and in taking measures against the expected severe consequences, confirms the principal role of the United Nations in global responses.

The pandemic clearly shows that global challenges can only be successfully addressed through joint and coordinated action by all states. These are precisely the supreme values and benefits of multilateralism, reflected in UN. I will mention two historical events from the recent past - the adoption
of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement - which testify the strength of unity and potential of the UN to be an agent of change in the process of shaping our future.

We can be proud of the results that the UN and its the member states have achieved over the past 75 years. As the largest peace project in history, UN have contributed to disarmament, preventing numerous conflicts, building peace and providing humanitarian aid around the world. For civilians in conflict areas, UN represent a hope that they will be protected from violence and that their basic needs for survival will be met.

The creation of UN also marked a milestone in the field of protection and universal promotion of human rights and equality, by adopting numerous documents that are now main pillar of the international human rights system. In doing so, UN reaffirmed that at a person (human being) with rights that are universal and undisputable must be at the heart of a new, more peaceful and prosperous world, and that no one should be discriminated or persecuted for being different.

Today, UN is engaged in a number of activities aimed at improving the social and economic condition of humanity, whether it is the fight against hunger and poverty, the vaccination of children, or the fight against climate change and the protection of the environment.

Starting from the fact that we share the same destiny on the planet that is our common home, we must fight together to improve the quality of life of all its inhabitants.

Mr. President,

The UN must retain its role as the center of the international order in the 21st century. Today, when we are facing a health crisis, but also crises of mistrust and erosion of international institutions, we must make additional efforts to strengthen the UN. Only a strong UN, which is efficient, inclusive and transparent, can respond to modern challenges in a timely and complete manner and contribute to the realization of the vision of a better future. Today's world is different from the world in which the UN was created. We
need new approaches and new alliances with civil society and the private sector.

I am convinced that UN has the potential to meet their goals and that we will be responsible to the vision of the founders. We owe it to the generations to come.

Mr. President,

Montenegro remains deeply committed to the principles and goals UN is based on. We have proven to be a reliable partner all these years, a partner who sincerely inherits the idea of multilateralism without an alternative, which is “at the heart” of UN.

I would like to express my gratitude to the UN system for its unreserved support to Montenegro in all our reform efforts. Today, Montenegro is recognized as a factor of peace and stability in the region, as a country with a dynamic and leading economy, and as the main candidate for the membership of the EU.

The UN can count on further strong support of Montenegro.

Thank you for your attention.