

## **Carpathian Convention COP7**

**12 October 2023, Belgrade, Serbia**

### **Statement by Mr. Oleksandr Krasnolutskyi, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of environmental protection and natural resources of Ukraine**

Ukraine thanks the Secretariat and the Serbian Presidency for the organized event and hospitable reception. We are sure that our cooperation and friendly relations between the parties to the Carpathian Convention will only strengthen. It is an honor for us that it was in Kyiv, back in 2003, that the signing and start of work of this convention took place.

The Convention has turned 20 years old - and during this time the Secretariat ensured its work and prosperity, for which we are extremely grateful. Since then, we have faced a new and serious challenge - an aggressive war started by Russia. We are grateful to the contracting parties for the support we received within the framework of the work of the convention, which is especially valuable considering the complexity of the situation in which no civilized country should be. However, we do not give up on our goals - we are constantly expanding the territory of the Carpathian natural parks in order to promote global world values - the preservation of biodiversity, the unique landscapes of the Carpathians and the slowing down of climate change.

Separately, I would like to thank the Secretariat and the Polish Presidency, under whose auspices the Ministerial Declaration on Aid to Ukraine was created and adopted. The support of friends in such difficult times is another proof of the consolidation of the Carpathian family.

Dear delegates and guests, thank you very much for your attention