

**Statement of the First Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Azerbaijan at the Second Session of the Energy Committee
of UNESCAP**

9 October 2019, Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Mr.Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

First of all, I would like to greet participants of the panel and the UNESCAP – the organizer of the session.

I believe that today's meeting is another good opportunity for exchange of views on development strategies in the field of energy and achievements on SDG7.

Having joined the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Azerbaijan is currently continuing and intensifying its efforts to align national development strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), by translating the relevant goals and targets into national policies and programs.

In order to ensure more effective implementation of SDG7 and their regional coordination, Azerbaijan in cooperation with the UNECE organized 7th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in 2016 to discuss the means of implementation of the national sustainable development agendum on energy, share relevant knowledge and experience and learn best international practices related to SDG7. As an outcome document Baku Call for Actions was adopted and as a result of these Actions a Ministerial declaration was signed within the 8th International Forum on Energy for SD in Kazakhstan.

At the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) organized by the ECOSOC in New York in July 2019 Delegation of Azerbaijan presented second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Azerbaijan on implementation of the SDGs focusing on Goals in accordance with the thematic plan of UN and shared its experience gained. Besides, we plan to come up with our next VNR in 2021 to assess the progress made by Azerbaijan after our previous VNR. We should note with satisfaction that Azerbaijan was first in the region of the South Caucasus and among the CIS countries to present the second VNR.

SDGs have set global targets for energy development and we believe that if achieved, they will serve to increase and expand socio-economic benefits while reducing environmental impacts. And it is obvious that the

implementation of Paris Agreement will not be possible without considering Goal 7.

My country adheres to the principle of affordable, clean and efficient energy for all. Azerbaijan is a country with one of the highest indicators of energy self-sufficiency and the country's energy security is totally achieved.

Azerbaijan is one of those countries which all of the population were provided with access to electricity. The target 7.1.1 was met totally, with the indicator of 100 percent of electrification achieved.

Azerbaijan has, due to different climate zones, not only advantageous opportunities in agriculture but also in gaining alternative and renewable energy sources with wind, sun, biomass, hydro and geothermal power sources. Azerbaijan has huge potential in the development of renewable energy that would be sustainable, reliable and affordable while securing future economic growth. Therefore, increasing the green sector and broadening alternative resources can make Azerbaijan free from oil and gas and protect the country's environment.

Modern society depends on reliable and affordable energy services to function smoothly and to develop equitably. Government and business can accelerate the transition to an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system by investing in renewable energy resources, prioritizing energy efficient practices, and adopting clean energy technologies and infrastructure.

In this context, Azerbaijan continuously improves business and regulatory climate, as well as offers numerous opportunities, through legal, tax and financial incentives to advance the deployment of renewables. Today, the share of alternative energy sources in the electricity supply of Azerbaijan is 8.1 percent (2018) (total installed renewable energy capacity is 17%). The Government of Azerbaijan has expressed ambitious plans to ramp up the share of electricity generated from renewable and alternative energy. Effective and sustainable energy policies are continuously developed by ongoing reforms and are reflected in the country's energy laws, strategies, roadmaps and plans. Strategic Roadmap for the Development of Public Utilities in Azerbaijan defined short-term (five-year), mid-term (till 2020) and long-term (beyond 2025) targets for introducing Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency technologies. Our plan is to increase capacity for generating electricity from wind, solar and biomass by 420 MegaWatt. Our goal is to increase the share of renewable in total energy production 30% by 2030;

The diversification of energy production power at the expense of renewables, along with energy security, will have a positive impact on our country's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement.

The State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established by the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan in 2013, with the aim of improving the management system in the field of alternative and renewable energy. "Azerbaijan 2020: Outlook into the Future" development concept includes provisions on the alternative and renewable energy sector. By the Presidential Decree in May 2019 Government was tasked to accelerate the reform process in the energy sector of Azerbaijan and it envisages the preparation of the "Long term Development Strategy of the Energy Sector in the Republic of Azerbaijan". The Decree provides the base for future policies promoting the wider use of renewable energy sources, creation favorable investment climate in energy sphere and support private entrepreneurship.

Energy Ministry has prepared the "National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency of Azerbaijan" within the EU4 Energy program and this paves the way for the preparation the "Law on the Efficient Use of Energy Resources and Energy Efficiency". The cooperation in the framework of the EU4Energy programme aims to support the EU's Eastern Partnership countries with reforming their energy markets and development of sustainable energy policy. The EU-funded programme has a budget of €21 million and will run until 2020.

As we embark upon a path of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we need to regularly test ourselves to identify the extent to which we are delivering on our commitments. Coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities among states backed by adequate resources are essential to secure sustainable future and ensure that no one is left behind.

In conclusion, I would like wish fruitful deliberations to all colleagues.

I thank you for your attention.