

Country Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

2nd Asia Pacific Energy Forum

Dear Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset I'd like to express my gratitude to UNESCAP and Madame Executive Secretary for making energy issue as one of priorities of the Organisation's agenda as well organising this Forum. In our view, in addition to bilateral and sub-regional discussions we should also use the UNESCAP platform for discussing energy issues of regional importance.

With the aim of timely and effective achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and implementation of post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, Azerbaijan continues to successfully implement its sustainable development strategy according to the Strategic Roadmaps to develop national economy.

We are committed to meeting SDGs in order to harmonize national development policies with the 2030 Development Agenda. With this in mind, National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development headed by Deputy Prime Minister was created in October 2016. As a result of the work already done I can point out that our first Voluntary National Review on implementation of the SDGs was presented last July during ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum held by in New York.

Energy cooperation plays the role of backbone of regional cooperation processes. And Azerbaijan became an essential partner in ensuring energy security for a wider region. We pioneered diversification of a pipeline infrastructure and linked Caspian, Black and Mediterranean Seas.

Successful construction and commissioning of Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and Baku-Tbilisi-Supsa oil pipelines, Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum gas pipeline showcased Azerbaijan as a reliable and committed partner contributing to pan-European energy security and beyond. Moreover, these projects stand out as symbols of genuine spirit of successful regional cooperation in energy sector.

Azerbaijan has also been successful in transforming into a key stakeholder and investor in energy infrastructure projects of regional and global scale. Through initiating and implementing sustainable energy projects Azerbaijan has established itself as a reliable energy supplier and become a vital bridge between Asia and Europe.

Currently, we are an enabler of the Southern Gas Corridor consisting of 4 components: development of Shah Deniz Gas Field Second Stage in the Caspian Sea, construction of pipeline projects South Caucasus Pipeline (SCP), Trans Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP) and Trans Adriatic Pipeline (TAP). This mega project with overall cost of 40 billion USD aimed to bring alternative gas volumes from Shah Deniz 2 field on Caspian coast to European markets and potential of meeting up to 20% of EU's gas demand in the future will not only contribute to the diversification of energy supply routes and thus to regional energy security, but also will provide new opportunities for other energy producers, as well as transit countries and consumers.

Thus, we plan to be able to deliver our gas from Shah Deniz field to European countries by 2020. We also managed to launch interconnection of electricity grids between Azerbaijan and Turkey via Georgia.

At national level energy security is closely related to modernisation of energy infrastructures, energy efficiency, energy savings and the use of renewable energy sources. Azerbaijan promotes and encourages deployment of sustainable and clean energy solutions in line with Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 7) and UN Secretary General's initiative Sustainable Energy For All (SE4ALL).

I should underline that the future evolvement of regional energy architecture also depends on development of reliable networks of interconnectors. Located on the strategic crossroads of East and West Azerbaijan is open to potential initiatives on expansion of inter-regional energy connectivity and bringing Central Asia closer to European energy infrastructure.

In conclusion, I'd like to underline that we do believe that ESCAP will continue its active role in supporting its Member States in achieving their goals in energy policy for the benefit of the region as a whole.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.