

Country statement: Bangladesh

Mr. Chairman, Dr. Shamshad Akhter Executive Secretary of UNESCP, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen.

Let me begin by reaffirming Bangladesh's strong solidarity with a successful 2nd Asia Pacific Energy Forum and its Declaration, as we meet here in Bangkok to address the energy security challenges of the 4.2 billion people of the Asia and the Pacific region, more than 10% of which still await access to electricity.

Bangladesh under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina firmly believes, that our region can achieve enhanced energy security and sustainable development, through the effective implementation of SDG7 at the national levels, and creation of resilient and sustainable regional energy and power grids and enhanced energy connectivity at the regional and sub-regional levels.

Under her transformational Vision 2021, Bangladesh with 162 million people in a land mass of only 147,570 km², has achieved a record 7.28% growth rate in recent years with a sustained growth of more than 6.3% over the past decade. With this robust and inclusive growth rates, Bangladesh has secured a top position in South Asia (34th globally) in the World Economic Forum's Inclusive Development Index's list of emerging economies, and has acclaimed to be the first LDC to have fulfilled all three eligibility criteria (GNI per capita, economic vulnerability index and human asset index) towards our graduation from LDC to a Middle-Income Country from 2024.

Every year as more than two million Bangladeshis join the ranks of middle class, and raise their incomes and lifestyles, demands for energy continues to rise. To meet these rising energy demands Bangladesh under our Sustainable Development strategy and Vision 2021, pursues a sustainable energy for all by 2021 policy in line with SDG 7, and continues its energy transition from a fossil fuel dominated energy model to a sustainable and integrated smart energy model with optimum energy efficiency and a shift to regional energy grid and energy connectivity.

Under our universal access to electricity by 2021, the Government has updated "**Power System Master Plan (PSMP) 2016 and** seeks to increase electricity generation capacity to 24,000 MW by 2021, 40,000 MW by 2030 and 60,000 MW by 2040. Over the past 9 years, power generation capacity has been tripled from under 4000 MW to over 16,000 MW and access to electricity raised to 90% of the population.

While indigenous natural gas has been the dominant source of primary commercial energy in Bangladesh for many decades, catering to 70% of total energy consumption Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has pursued over the past decade a sustainable and low carbon energy transition regime attaching high priority to a policy of energy conservation, energy efficiency and renewable energy mix in our energy supply vision. Bangladesh adopted its **Renewable Energy Policy** in 2008, which mandates 10% of electricity from renewables by 2020 and is integrated into **Bangladesh's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan**. Renewable energy and energy efficiency options are also included in the **Bangladesh National Building Code**.

In an inclusive renewable energy regime that is determined not to leave any marginalized population behind, Bangladesh has broken world record through installation of **5 million Solar Home Systems** and providing access to electricity to more than 20 million people in our coastal areas and urban slums. The Government is introducing **net metering** as an incentive to on-grid consumers to export electricity generated from renewables to the grid after fulfilling individual domestic or industrial demands. National **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Master Plan up to 2030 has been launched** aimed at 15% improvement in primary energy consumption per GDP by 2021 and 20% by 2030 compared to 2013 levels. In order to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency, the government established the **Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority** in 2014 as a nodal agency.

Last but most importantly, Bangladesh is pursuing a foreign policy and development vision for achieving sustainable energy security through robust regional cooperation and energy and power grid connectivity, acting as an energy bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia. Recognizing the fact that energy trade is a powerful catalyst for strengthening **intra-regional cooperation, energy security and sustainable use of energy, our dynamic Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** has been working with neighbouring countries and pioneering regional cooperation in the power and energy sector. Since 2013 Bangladesh and India have initiated the first Bangladesh-India cross border power grid and electricity trade with 716 MW of power already being imported from **India and** an additional 500 MW power to enter the pipeline by June 2018, and another 1000 MW new cross-border power line now under construction. Through a 130 km **Indo-Bangla Friendship cross-border Pipeline**, Bangladesh will also be importing upto 400,000 metric tons of diesel from the, India. Bangladesh is also pursuing regional hydro-power connectivity and energy sharing with neighbours Nepal and Bhutan with plans to import 2000 MW electricity from Nepal and the tri-country mega hydro project with Bhutan and India. We are also under discussion with Myanmar for power trading among China- Myanmar –Bangladesh.

I THANK YOU.