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Statement by
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ESCAP, Cambodia

Second Session of the Committee on Energy

9-11 October 2019

“Regional Road Map on Energy Connectivity”

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great opportunity and honor for me to speak in the Second Session of the Committee on Energy organized by ESCAP and hosted by Ministry of Energy, Thailand. On behalf of the Cambodian delegation, I would like to thank the organizers and the host of this committee that make it happen. Today I would like to share with you the “Regional Road Map on Energy Connectivity from Cambodia’s Perspective”.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Driven by robust internal demand, expansion of export-oriented activities and an increase in foreign direct investment, Cambodia’s economy has performed strongly in the recent past. This, combined with good progress on achieving electrification targets, has in turn resulted in a high rate of electricity demand growth and highlights the importance of delivering stable, reliable and affordable supplies of electricity over the short, medium and long term.

Cambodia has a very high import dependency as the country relies heavily on imports of coal, oil and electricity. To fuel economic growth, we continue to increase these imports. The increase in energy demand in Cambodia will also see the increase in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels. The Royal Government of Cambodia recognizes that expanding energy access to modern, affordable and reliable forms of energy with lower green-house gas is essential for the country’s continued social and economic growth. In recent years, actual demand growth in Cambodia has exceeded the Power Development Plan’s high demand projections and, for example, in the dry season of year 2019, we experienced with power shortage as the result of unexpected drought.

Historically, Cambodia's power generation mix has been based on conventional sources – coal and hydro – however, as we look forward to the year 2040, a wider range of generation technologies are available to the country and can be leveraged.

With very good solar potential, Cambodia is on track to have up to 415 MW of utility scale solar capacity installed by 2021 and experience in the deployment and coordination of this technology with other sources, notably hydro. Now this process is ongoing.

Measures for deployment of other renewable / sustainable technologies are presently being studied, and in particular how they would complement solar and hydro in the country's technology mix; this includes work to assess the feasibility of waste-to-energy, biomass and wind power.

Recent trends in LNG infrastructure has seen this technology emerge as another important option that can complement generation mixes with high levels of variable renewable energy and in particular, playing a role to enhance power system stability as well as displacing generation from technologies with higher emission intensities.

The Royal Government of Cambodia recognizes that the Energy Connectivity in ASEAN can play the important role to increase energy security and power system reliability, create economic opportunities and empower forming new partnerships. With these objectives Cambodia has started bilateral power connections between Cambodia-Vietnam, Cambodia-Thailand and Cambodia-Laos. And now we are looking for more power connection with our neighboring countries.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is imperative that we take the opportunity of the Second Session of the committee on Energy organized by ESCAP to discuss the important topic in our Energy Development Challenges. Thank you again the organizers and the host of this session.

I wish the session a successful and fruitful one.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.