

Country Statement:

Second Asian and the Pacific Energy Forum

3-5 April 2018, UNCC CR-2, Bangkok

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Honorable Audience,

I am very pleased to participate in the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, organized by UNESCAP, which brings representatives of the region having tendency of rapid increase of energy resources. All over the world, but especially in this region energy transition towards sustainable and resilient society is utmost important.

The international best practice shows that Sustainable energy development and transition to sustainable energy is a step forward to a low-emission economy, as it is about using energy wisely and using energy generated from clean energy sources and technologies. However, sustainable energy development is not only renewable energy utilization; it is synergies between Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Technology and Policy, which requires the availability of resources, proper investment and a strong political will and cooperation among regions. A common regional cooperation should be a fundamental platform for the sustainable energy development.

Georgia, a country that is located on the crossroads of Europe and Asia, has interesting role in the regional cooperation. As we are involved in multi-regional cooperation, simultaneously with Europe and Asia, we acknowledge this advantage and sharing best practice of both regions.

The energy sector of Georgia is developing exactly based on best examples of these regions. We are transforming Energy in to sustainable manner. Our aim is full and effective utilization of tremendous untapped renewable energy potential. Potential is available: the estimated annual generation from hydro resources is equivalent to 50 billion KWh and 4 billion KWh from the wind resources. Besides, Georgia has a significant potential of geothermal, solar and biomass resources.

Historically Georgia has a good experience of hydropower development; our major Hydropower Plant Enguri is operating since the 70s of last century. Currently, 76 small, medium and large scale hydro power plants are operating with total of 3156 MW installed capacity.

However, to meet increasing energy demand, overcome the winter deficit and to decrease the dependence on imported energy resources, we are developing additional generation units. Currently, in total 155 renewable energy projects are under development. The total installed capacity of these projects is 5462 MW and approximate electricity generation is around 20.3 Terawatt hours.

Additionally, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development proposes an investment package, which currently includes 78 potential renewable energy projects. All of the projects have pre-feasibility studies available. The total installed capacity of these projects is estimated at 2679 MW. Last five years was very active in terms of Renewable Energy uptake, 20 HPPs has been launched in 2012 – 2017. Besides hydropower development, we are making steps towards wind energy development. The first wind power plant was taken into operation in 2016. Total installed capacity is 20,7 MW and total annual generation equals 88 mln KW/h.

In parallel with increasing generating units, energy infrastructure is in active development. To be able to absorb all planned generation and to improve the reliability of the connection between eastern and western part of Georgian power system and at the same time to become a regional hub for electricity transit we elaborated the 10-year Network Development Plan for 2018-2028. This is a strategic plan for development of stable, reliable, cost-effective and efficient transmission system at any development stage, which will ensure the network security, sufficient transfer capacity for integration of renewable energy sources into the network and to facilitate power exchange with neighboring countries. Together with development of all mentioned projects, generated units and network development plan approximately 8-9 billion USD will be invested in Georgian energy sector within next 10 years.

To increase the volume of clean energy export and therefore to support the cross-border electricity trade with our neighbors we are developing a new Electricity Market Model and Electricity Trade Mechanism. The aim of market model is to develop a hydropower private sector, transmission system, trade instruments and to improve mechanism for investment risk reduction. That will help hydropower generators to sell electricity in Turkey and in other increasing competitive markets.

Alongside with the renewable energy development we are actively working to increase the energy efficiency within the country, hence currently we are in the active process of making fundamentals for Energy Efficiency legislative framework.

We believe that energy sector development in Georgia is promoting sustainable energy development and will respond sustainable development goal in the future. Our effort will even strengthen in the frame of regional cooperation with strong support of international donor and financial organizations and fruitful cooperation with neighboring countries.

Thank for your attention and wish you successful day!