

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. TUGSBILGUUN TUMURKHULEG, AMBASSADOR  
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MONGOLIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA  
AND THE PACIFIC AT THE SECOND SESSION

*9 October 2019, at the UNCC*

Mr. Chair,  
Madame Executive Secretary,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by extending our sincere congratulations to you, Mr. Chair, on your election as Chair of the Second Session of the Committee on Energy. I am confident that under your able leadership, the session will be led to a successful conclusion.

My delegation shares a view that the establishment of the Energy Committee two years ago under the framework of ESCAP contributed to enhancing the energy connectivity development in our region. Moreover, it provided us with an important avenue to discuss and implement actions to overcome the key challenges facing the attainment of the SDG-7.

Mr. Chair,

As a landlocked developing country, Mongolia attaches particular importance to taking active part in regional and multilateral economic cooperation mechanisms. Therefore, we are of view that developing regional cooperation and energy connectivity holds an important key in improving the quality of life and strengthening national economies, which, in turn, would lead to successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals including the SDG-7.

The State Great Hural (Parliament) of Mongolia adopted "Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision 2030" in 2016 on the basis of the Agenda 2030. Under this Vision, Mongolia set goals to create a competitive, multi-pillar accessible economy, improve living conditions of the population by creating employment opportunities, as well as to preserve sustainable environment, reduce climate change impacts and make other adaptations in accordance to development features of the country.

Furthermore, the Parliament of Mongolia approved the State Policy on Energy for 2015-2030, which has identified the development of the regional cooperation as one of its six strategic goals besides ensuring reliable supply, energy efficiency and development of renewable energy. The Government of Mongolia stands for promoting mutually beneficial cooperation with neighboring and regional countries in the field of energy.

Mr. Chair,

Mongolia considers it important to launch a policy dialogue channel that would enable regional countries to utilize the potentials of the regional energy cooperation and lay foundations for reducing non-physical barriers on energy trade and connectivity.

As a country abundant with natural resources, we have great potentials to gain economic benefits by exporting energy sources to larger energy consuming markets and thus, secure the stable energy supply sources in the region.

The Government of Mongolia and the Asian Development Bank have jointly made a study to assess the viability of Mongolia to interconnect with its neighbours and export clean power to the customers in the region. According to this comprehensive study, Mongolia can develop and supply up to 200GW of wind and 1.2TW of solar energy to its neighbors. With systematic enhancement of national power grids and development of HVDC cross border interconnections, the study estimates that up to 100GWs of clean and low-cost power can be exported from Mongolia by 2036. Similar to the Mongolian study, multiple studies have been done over the past years by the national power utility companies in the region.

Mr. Chair,

Taking this opportunity, I wish to specifically underline the significance of the Mongolian President's initiative on establishing regional organization to set up the Northeast Asian common electricity market. This common energy market can serve as the best solution for Northeast Asian countries to optimally manage their energy production, consumption, and peak-hour demand.

This project is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals to increase the production of renewable energy and to promote low carbon emission. The Northeast Asian common electricity market would help to boost to the economies in the region, and most importantly, it would enable the people of the participating countries to have access to affordable and accessible energy.

In this connection, I wish to extend our gratitude to the UN ESCAP for its support of Mongolia's initiative by co-hosting a plenary session on Northeast Asia regional energy cooperation as part of the Sixth International Conference of Ulaanbaatar Dialogue on Northeast Asian Security held last June in Mongolia.

The international community has put massive effort and commitment into transition to sustainable energy systems within the framework of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Having vast clean energy resources, Mongolia is fully committed to contribute to the international efforts through taking advantage of the latest developments in technology and trends in global energy transformation.

Thank you for your attention.