

Thank you, Chair,

I have the honor to be with you. This committee meeting holds great importance, providing an opportunity to exchange views on each country's energy policy.

We reaffirm our strong commitment to working together to advance the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 7. We recognize the role and prominence of the Committee on Energy of UN ESCAP in supporting the implementation, follow-up and review process of the members' policies to achieve SDG 7.

Having said this, it is a reality we face that a considerable number of people in the Asian Pacific region lack reliable access to energy. Even though we recognize that much progress has been made, however, to address this energy-poverty issue requires the coordinated endeavour among member countries to realize universal access to energy, and accelerated pace is needed.

Here, I would like to share with you my country's efforts to achieve the SDG 7.

The republic of Korea has conducted the policy of Energy transition. It is a core task in our efforts to make our society sustainable and to achieve a sustainable and environment-friendly energy mix.

The Korean Government has also come up with a concrete plan for energy transition. Korea is taking a step-by-step approach to gradually modify the old mix and increase the share of electricity

generated from renewable energy to 30-35% by 2040, which means more than 95% of new capacity is solar photovoltaics and wind.

The integrated nature of the SDGs, in particular SDG 7 requires a multi-stakeholder response at all levels. We must strengthen partnerships with a broad range of actors, including civil society and the private sector. We take particular note of the importance to engage with the civil society and the private sector more actively in a sense that our efforts to realize the SDG 7 would be in vain without public participation like self-production and consumption for home and building, agricultural photovoltaics, and small, large-scale projects.

Furthermore, Korea has devised and implemented a roadmap of investment for clean energy research and development. It is also nurturing new sectors in the energy industry – one instance of this is the energy storage system designed to overcome the intermittency of renewable energy.

Among the actions that we encourage are to promote renewable energy in the international arena. We work closely with both the Green Climate Fund and the Global Green Growth Institute based in Korea. In addition to this, the 8th Meeting of the International Renewable Energy Conference will be held in Seoul this October and we welcome the ESCAP Member States' participation in this KIREC event. The Government of the Republic of Korea will continue to work together with the international community through its energy diplomacy tailored to the needs of the era of energy transition.

We again underscore the need to tackle the energy-poor problem and achieve the ideal of SDG 7 in the Asian-Pacific region which is considered as the global engine for economic development. We hope for ESCAP members to join together to this end.

I would like to conclude by stating that Korea reaffirms its continued support to UN ESCAP's efforts to achieve SDG 7. Thank you.