

Thank you, Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Korea recognizes the importance of realization of a vision of an interconnected regional power system. Although many countries agree on the positive effects of interconnected power grid system, multilateral cooperation is not easy because of various factors, such as lack of political trust, differences in domestic policies, regulations, standards, prices, and uncertainty in attracting large-scale investments.

The draft regional road map on power system connectivity seems to address many critical ideas required for progress towards energy interconnection. For instance, we agree that, as mentioned in strategy 4, it is crucial to identify gaps in policies, regulations and standards in each subregion and establish forums or associations to enable the harmonization of regulations. We also wish to highlight the importance of Strategy 6, coordinating cross-border transmission planning and system operation through harmonizing technical standards such as grid codes encompassing frequency, voltage and thermal limits.

At the same time, I would also like to mention the realistic aspects of trans-national power system interconnection. First, an international organization such as UN ESCAP can play a supporting role in promoting cooperation. However, in order to promote energy connectivity in the region, it is the government of each Member State that will be the driving force of cooperation, rather than international organizations. This is the reason why it is

important to provide a platform for continuous dialogue between Member States. In this regard, we would like to thank the UN ESCAP for providing such platform.

Second, regarding the key milestones of each strategy in the road map, we would like to consider the specific time frame proposed for each strategy to be ideal examples rather than actual deadlines. Currently, most of the key milestones are suggested as short or medium-term goals, but even if it takes longer time to reach the goals, we believe it is more important to make thorough preparations before moving on to next steps.

Before concluding our statement, we would like to briefly introduce a forum we are holding with UN ESCAP. The forum will be held in Seoul, Korea on October 24 under the topic of “North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection.” We expect to review the progress made and discuss planned activities regarding power interconnections in North-East Asia.

Thank you.