

Accelerate Global Energy Interconnection for the World's Sustainable Development

Opening Address at the UN High-level Symposium
(November 1, 2017)
Liu Zhenya, Chairman of GEIDCO

Distinguished Secretary-General António Guterres,
Under-Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin,
Dear guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning.

Today, the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) jointly hold this High-Level Symposium to pool global wisdom and efforts to promote global consensus and joint action for sustainable development. Global Energy Interconnection (GEI) is important and instrumental for the implementation of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (hereafter referred to as “2030 Agenda”). First of all, on behalf of GEIDCO, please allow me to extend my warm welcome to all guests attending the Symposium and my sincere thanks to the United Nations, related governments, organizations, businesses and institutions for their long-term support.

Achieving sustainable development is a shared task for all countries. On September 25, 2015, The UN General Assembly adopted the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which clarified 17 sustainable development goals, pointing out the direction for sustainable development of all countries. Energy is the “blood” of economic and social development and the fundamental driver of sustainable growth. Currently, global energy development is confronted with severe challenges such as resource constraints, environmental pollution and climate change, all of which threaten human existence and development. Speeding up energy transition is crucial for the realization of sustainable development goals (SDGs) of the “2030 Agenda”.

To promote energy transition and sustainable development around the world, Chinese President Xi Jinping, for the first time, proposed discussion on establishing Global Energy Interconnection, or GEI, to meet global electricity demand with clean and green alternatives at the UN Sustainable Development

Summit on September 26, 2015. This proposal has received wide recognition and support from various parties. GEI is a modern energy system featuring clean energy as the priority, electricity as the center, global interconnection, joint construction and sharing. In essence, GEI is “Smart Grid + UHV Grid + Clean Energy”.

Building GEI has a far-reaching bearing on the implementation of all SDGs of the “2030 Agenda”. It can help accelerate green and low-carbon energy transition, protect the ecological environment, and promote global infrastructure connectivity and long-lasting economic growth. It will also provide sustainable energy for all, mitigate poverty and hunger, bridge regional gaps and promote South-South Cooperation and South-North Cooperation. In this way, we can create a new global landscape featuring green and low-carbon growth, peace and harmony and common prosperity.

Currently, with favorable technical feasibility, economic competitiveness and political consensus, the conditions for building GEI are suitable. The GEIDCO has formulated the *Global Energy Interconnection Action Plan to Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (hereafter GEI Action Plan), based on thorough analysis and studies of the goals and tasks of the *2030 Agenda*, status quo, energy resources as well as strategic planning of major countries in various continents. In this context, the GEI Action Plan puts forward Ten Actions and Five Cooperation Mechanisms, hoping to provide global solutions and direction for sustainable energy development worldwide.

Looking toward the future, GEI has great potential. The building of GEI will be carried out in three phases: domestic, intra-continental and intercontinental interconnection with GEI essentially coming into being in 2050. By then, global clean energy will make up 80% of the total energy mix, and CO₂ emissions will be reduced to half of 1990 levels. The target of holding global temperature rise within 2° C can be achieved, which shall fundamentally ensure sustained clean energy supply and resolve the fossil energy dilemma. With GEI, the world shall become a bright, peaceful and harmonious global village of green lands and blue skies with sustainable energy for all and prosperity around the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, GEIDCO is willing to cooperate with all sides to jointly promote the building of GEI, to open a new chapter in human civilization featuring joint discussion, co-construction, mutual sharing and win-win cooperation, creating a bright and sustainable future for mankind,.

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