

- **Your Excellency, Mr Liu Zehnmin, Undersecretary General for UN DESA**
- **Your Excellency, Neven Mimica, Commissioner for International Cooperation & Development, European Commission**
- **Your Excellency, Francesco La Camera, Director General, International Renewable Energy Agency**
- **Distinguished speakers and guests (from: UN DESA, the European Union, and the International Renewable Energy Agency)**
- **Thank you for convening this important event to combat climate change through energy transition**

Human beings have the responsibility not only to upkeep and maintain the great planet we have received but also to pass to the next generations and species an earth that is more habitable and sustainable than we have had.

At the Abu Dhabi Climate Summit earlier this month, The UN Secretary of General, Antonio Guterres in his Keynote address declared Climate Change as global emergency that all must take seriously and address immediately.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- As we all know, non-renewable and dirty energy is one of the major contributors of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions globally.
- Efforts to reduce emissions and address the climate crisis must include the energy sector, as energy accounts for two-thirds of total greenhouse gas emissions and 80% of CO₂. Around 44% of the CO₂ emission reductions needed will need to come from energy efficiency, while 36% of the needed CO₂ emissions reduction will come by a switch to renewables.
- Sustainable investments and public-private partnerships must realize these CO₂ abatement potentials accordingly while ensuring access for the 840 million people without access to electricity (nearly 600Million in Africa). This is what we are set out to do and where we need deliverables for the Climate Action Summit that both translate into policy and project action.

Ethiopia as a co-lead for the Energy Transition Track with Denmark and SE4ALL, and working with Colombia, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco and Palau, is working to accelerating the shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy with

major gains in energy efficiency and present actionable proposals at the upcoming UN Climate Action Summit in September.

The possible deliverable areas that have been identified under the Energy Transition Track include: mobilizing investment and financing for clean energy transition, market-driven Public Private Partnerships, Challenging sectors, and “Leaving no one behind” in light of the many people still without access to clean energy in the LDCs.

- Although developed countries contribute significantly more global GHG emission than developing or Least Developed Countries (LDCs), LDCs feel the lion’s share of climate change impact in the form of irregular rainfall patterns, droughts, El Niños, hurricanes and cyclones.
- The impact of Climate Change is even more pronounced on LDC because LDCs have one of the lowest electrification rates and use tradition sources of energy for lighting (kerosene lamps) and cooking (wood and charcoal) which are causing significant CO2 emissions and deforestation, exacerbating climate change.
- In 2017, Global Electricity Access Rate was estimated as 88.8% with Asia LDCs at 86% and Africa LDCs at 33.2%.
- Lack of electricity access is even more pronounced in Africa, as 14 African LDCs still had an alarmingly low access rate of less than 30%.
- Only 14% of the population in LDCs has access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking, severely impacting people’s health and the environment.
- Universal electricity access and achieving SDG 7 goals is critical to development because data shows us that 20 of least-electrified countries are all LDCs.
- The SDG 7 goal of LDCs reaching universal electricity access by 2030 will end energy poverty and will help LDCs achieve several SDGs including SDG 13 – combat climate change.
- Ethiopia has been also leading LDCs on energy access by initiating the Least Developed Countries Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative (LDC REEEI) for Sustainable Development which has three main objectives:
 - 100% affordable and renewable LDC electricity access by 2030;
 - 100% electricity from renewable energy sources in all LDCs by 2050;

- 100% utilization of energy efficiency potentials by 2040.
- Technological advances continue to reduce cost of clean and green energy and if these technological advancements are combined with increased investments, LDCs will have the opportunity to reach SDG 7 and SDG 13 by 2030.
- More focus and innovative public-private financing schemes like the SDG7 BOND are needed in scaling up energy investment in LDCs:
 - Annual global investment of \$55B is needed to expand energy access, and
 - \$700B is needed to increase renewable energy and \$600B to improve energy efficiency.
- LDCs are endowed with a wealth of renewable energy resources. However, LDCs share of solar, wind and hydro power remains low. However, LDCs have the opportunity to develop innovative and cost-effective renewable energy systems towards zero-carbon emissions.
- If we take Ethiopia as example, in line with its Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy and Energy policy, over the last decade, Ethiopia embarked on developing its abundant renewable energy resource and increased its installed capacity by more than 500% from 790MW to 4300MW to achieve over 95% of renewable energy generation through public financing.
- By completing currently under construction hydroelectric projects, Ethiopia plans to add more than 8400MW of additional renewable and clean power to its installed capacity mix by 2023.
- Ethiopia has also invested public financing to develop and drastically improve its energy infrastructure, transmission and distribution lines which helped more than double on-grid electricity access to the current 33% rate and has launched its well-received and ambitious National Electrification Program (NEP) that would help it achieve universal electrification (65% on-grid and 35% off-grid) by 2025; 5 years ahead of the SDG7 goal.
- However, public investment in renewable energy and associated infrastructure has been scarce and will not sufficient for Ethiopia to achieve SDG7. For this reason, Ethiopia has established Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) proclamation to develop all future renewable power generation by the private sector via Independent Power Producers (IPPs).

- Ethiopia has established relevant energy policies, legal framework and financial risk mitigation strategies to support engagement of the private sector in power generation through IPPs;
- Ethiopia's scaling solar program aspires to deploy 1100MW of utility-scale photovoltaic solar projects by availing Partial Risk Guarantee (PRGs) facility to IPPs through development banks like The World Bank.
- Similar PPP approaches and PRG facilities are envisaged for 1000MW utility-scale wind power projects in Ethiopia.
- PPP framework and PRG facilities similar to Wind and Solar are needed to develop additional planned 5000MW hydropower generation and nearly 2000MW of geothermal energy which are estimated to mobilize more than 15B in private investment.
- Ethiopia, is not only plays its share through CRGE, RE of 97% and rapid access to arrive at full access by 2025. With Prime Minister Abiy's initiative since May, we are planting 4 billion trees for greening and C-Sequestration with July 2019 as culmination point of planting 200 Million seedlings a day.
- Innovative financing schemes could help set-up risk guarantee facilities and provide transaction advisory services to make private financing a reality. Further, climate financing could provide direct financing to IPPs to Accelerate Clean Energy Investment in Africa and achieve much needed SDG goals.
- As the co-lead of the Energy Transition Track of the Climate Action Summit, Ethiopia is working to form LDC coalition to develop common Energy Transition proposals that would be presented at the Climate Summit in New York.
- **I am pleased today, in this high-level event, we are deliberating on generating possible ideas and concrete actionable way forward for the climate summit that converges SDG7 and energy transition, SDG13 and climate change including financing, technology and partnership in order to advance the 2030 Agenda for SDGs.**

Thank you