

DG Remarks

UN High-Level Political Forum

Session: Building resilience against future shocks through structural changes and investment in sustainable infrastructure
2-minute intervention

Tuesday, 6 July 2021, 15:00 – 17:00 ET | 19:00 – 21:00 CET

- Excellences.
- Ladies and gentlemen.
- It is a pleasure to join you today and to address the importance of investment in sustainable infrastructure for building resilience in our societies.
- Building back better is not just an attractive slogan designed for the purposes of communication.
- It is a guiding principle for decision makers as we respond to the immediate and longer-term needs of people and planet.
- The renewables-led energy transition is central to this future.
- Focused and targeted investment in enabling infrastructure is critical if we are to advance the transition over the next decade.
- We need greater system flexibility, modern grids, hydrogen distribution networks, EV charging infrastructure as well as significant investment in grid-connected and off-grid renewable power generation infrastructure.
- By working together, public institutions can play a significant role in mitigating investment risk and encouraging the flow of private sector capital that is needed to build back better.
- This reinforcing process can help attract the 4 trillion US dollars of investment needed annually, to align the energy system with the sustainable development goals and the Paris Agreement.
- By doing so we can ensure universal access to energy, education services and healthcare facilities, while creating stable, productive economic opportunities for millions of people.
- These are the hallmarks of more resilient societies.

Dear friends,

- The energy transition, and rapid scale up of enabling infrastructure is not only about climate action.
- Through our work at IRENA we have consistently presented the case that the transition is a catalyst for growth and a pillar of more just and inclusive societies.
- To build back stronger, we must build back greener.
- Thank you for your attention.