

Honorable State Minister, Your Excellency Dr. Frehiwok

The State Minister of Water, Irrigation and Electivity of Ethiopia

Ms. Fatima Denton,

Director of Special Initiatives Division, UNECA

Mr. Samba Thiam,

Head, UN Environment Liaison Office to UNECA, and Ethiopia

Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, I would like to congratulate all of you for the successful completion of this very important workshop.

Over the past three days, we have taken a **remarkable journey together** to navigate how to mainstream water and energy nexus into our national policy, to identify what are the challenges and opportunities through a lively and collegial atmosphere.

We could have opportunities to hear from excellent speakers. I believe that the participants brought in not just their expertise but fresh insights and creative approaches on the topic.

Africa is a large and diverse continent. When H.E. Minister, Seleshi proposed this Water and Energy Nexus Africa workshop in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), we were puzzled how we may bring all government officers and experts from all corners of Africa together.

However, we are now really happy that the workshop become a reality through concerted efforts from the co-organizers, Dr. Seleshi's own effort and many other networks and individuals who contributed to disseminating the workshop to the wider audience in the continent. I am deeply thankful to all of you for the enormous effort.

Through the three days deliberation, the workshop discussed various issues of the continent through keynote speech, panel discussions, country and regional presentations, and group discussions.

As UNOSD and co-organizing agencies, we are happy to learn that several shared challenges and gaps are discussed, regional and country experiences are shared from different parts of the continent and the world.

The importance of nexus approach to sustainable development of water and energy is highlighted. The importance of data, capacity building, finance, partnership and alliance

for successful implementation is discussed. These issues are important to UNOSD and partner agencies at UN.

In this regard, we fully support the workshop recommendations and would like to continually engage with the continent for a successful implementation of SDG and be part of a solution through enhancing the continent's capacity, and bridging the knowledge gap, building partnerships and alliances.

Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen,

Actually Our Office/UNOSD has undertaken many activities for successful implementation of SDGs including water and energy issues: .

I wish to mention a few of the activities in 2018;

- International Mayors forum, Lilongwe, Malawi in May 2018
- Executive training course for policy makers on 2030 Agenda and the SDG, Incheon, S. Korea in April,
- Expert Group Meeting on Sustainable Application of Waste-to-Energy In Asian region, Busan, Republic of Korea (February 22-23, 2018)
- Expert Group Meeting on Integrated Approaches for Sustainable Development, New York, USA (19-20 July, 2018)

Also we will host CC MRV training course in Bangkok in Sep,

/SD Transition Forum in Oct, FF to RE workshop in Costa Rica in Nov. and many more.

So I am highly anticipating your active participation again in our series of events. We take this experience back to UNOSD and engage the continent further.

Last but not least, I thank Moderator Semu for your excellent facilitation. Without your dedication, this meeting would not have been possible.

I wish you a safe trip back home,
I thank you all

