It is my utmost privilege to participate in this high level seminar as a panelist and making statement on behalf of the ICIMOD.

Let me take a brief moment to introduce ICIMOD and the region.

ICIMOD - intergovernmental organization for sustainable mountain development in the Hindu kush himalayan (hkh) region

ICIMOD brings together partnership of eight Himalayan countries namely - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan.

The hkh region characterized by difficult geographic reality - inaccessibility, remoteness not to mention harsh climatic conditions these geographic impediments accords many folds as shared by LLDCs.

The region suffers from High incidence of poverty and energy poverty despite of immense renewable energy potentials - hydro, solar, winds.

The energy access in the region is much below the world average statistics.

In the context of SDGs, Paris climate conference and meeting these targets require increased investments, innovation and partnership. Business as usual is NOT the solution. We need to leapfrog from current situation and the HKH region need urgent attention.

We are happy to note ICIMOD-UNIDO- ADA partnership- to establish Himalayan centre for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

With the key goal to promote energy access, efficiency and renewable energy for impoverished mountain communities.

We view such a center need to provide sustainable energy solutions for mountain specific situations while building upon the on-going national efforts. Fostering regional cooperation among the member states will be the main agenda. Let me mention some key functions:

- Research and innovation
We need to focus on action oriented research and capitalizing on emerging technological innovation for sustainable energy solutions;

- Generation of Knowledge and sharing and linking evidence based science to policy and practice

- Capacity development and networking - building upon current national efforts and focusing on gender; marginalized communities should accord the high priority.

- Engagement of private sector and entrepreneurship for increased development impact, up-scaling and sustainability;

- Regional platform for mutual learning and sharing opportunities and bringing together the best practices

- and lastly, on financing - we should aim for global financing mechanisms such as Global Climate Finance and also innovative finance mechanisms such micro-finance, for which the region has many success stories.

At the end, the Himalayan center is "in the making" and we could learn from other experiences as my fellow panelists have shared their experiences from other parts of the world.