Accelerating the energy transition in LLDCs

HLPF Side-Event - 13th July 2018

Remarks delivered by H.E. Ambassador Sylvia Meier-Kajbic, Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation, Austria and Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of LLDCs

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank UN OHRLLS and Paraguay as well as Sustainable Energy for All and UNIDO for organizing a side-event that gives us the opportunity to discuss the important topic of energy transition in LLDCs. Now, as the global community embarks on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the ambitious targets of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a focused cooperation with the 32 landlocked developing countries is more important than ever.

As a landlocked country, Austria understands the particular challenges due to geographical location and feels a special degree of connection and solidarity for other countries in the same situation. Energy is a crucial factor in this regard. To put it in a nutshell: Without access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and renewable energy services, economic, ecological and thus social development is hampered.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions can greatly contribute to the reduction of dependency on expensive fossil fuel imports and are best developed in the framework of regional cooperation, aimed at both, building renewable energy industries, and fostering the emergence of energy efficiency markets.

In this context, I would like to highlight the excellent partnership of the Government of Austria with UNIDO on the establishment of a Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres for LLDCs all over the world. This network substantially contributes to the achievement of SDG 7.

Austria remains committed to providing support for this network of regional centres of excellence. These centres do an excellent work by strengthening local capacities in the field of sustainable energy systems, policies and standards as well as of the private sector in this area. Finally, they promote south-south and north-south partnerships for technology and knowledge transfer.
This side event will present LLDCs’ inputs to the first global review of SDG 7 at this year’s HLPF; at the same time it will contribute to the Vienna Programme of Action for the LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024 which recognizes the energy challenges and opportunities in LLDCs.