Closing Remarks

by

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And
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Closing session of the Global Conference on Scaling-up Energy Access and Finance in Least Developed Countries

Venue: Kerry Hotel, Ballroom 1

Beijing, China
31 May 2019
14:30 – 15:30
Excellency Mr. Ligoya, Ambassador of Malawi to the United Nations and Global Chair of the LDC Group,
Excellency, Ambassador of Ethiopia to the Peoples Republic of China,
Mr. Wu Xuan, Secretary General of GEIDCO
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Two intense, two rich and informative days full of interesting and fruitful discussions come to a close.

This Conference was one step, an important step on a journey to make sustainable energy available to every person living in an LDC.

This Conference was a key step in ACTION to make true our promise to leave no one behind. Indeed, ACTION is what counts.

It is what we promised in the Istanbul Programme of Action in 2011 and then reiterated in SDG7.

Our Conference built on regional meetings OHRLLS organized on sustainable energy access, one in Tanzania and one in Nepal.

The main take aways of our two intense days are:

- Ownership of LDCs and leadership in developing energy strategies is key—energy strategies should be a systematic component in other development strategies. For that to happen, political will is crucial.
- Access to sustainable energy is a precondition across the spectre of development and goes beyond the mere issue of household consumption. Energy is at the core of all sector strategies from health to agriculture.
- We must look at the energy climate nexus and explore and implement climate change responsive approaches to policy development across relevant sectors.
Finance in general is available but access varies and the capacity of LDCs to access and manage funds needs to be increased. There also needs to be some prioritization on what projects need finance most urgently and should be undertaken first.

Different types of energy projects need to be matched with different types of finance and different levels of subsidies are needed, which should be targeted to the poor. While the private sector plays an important role in enhancing energy access, LDCs continue to need grants and concessional finance from various sources to ensure meaningful access for all.

To enable greater uptake of off-grid renewable energy and clean cooking solutions in LDCs, a dedicated inclusive financing framework is needed. It must address LDC specific challenges and include both public funding and private finance. It must be supportive of local and women entrepreneurs to provide for their access to sustainable and affordable energy.

Now is the time to act!

We as partners must move to results and put recommendations to action.

I look forward to concrete initiatives both of LDCs and in favor of LDCs to be announced at the SGs Climate Action Summit in September.

Concrete measures to enhance energy access in LDCs must be included in the Outcome of the Fifth Conference for the LDCs.

The Conference takes place in 2021 and I thank Ambassador Ligoya for stressing this point!

We need to make use of the preparatory process and continue to work together ever more closely. It is our shared responsibility to come up with innovative solutions to the many challenges discussed over the past 2 days.

Yes, the glass is half full and we must build on the many encouraging examples that were shared.
I once more also must urge participants from LDCs to contribute to the National Reports. These are part of the preparatory process for LDC-V.

They are your chance to ensure that challenges and best practices in the area of energy are reflected. These National Reports are due to be finalized before the end of this year.

They feed into regional review meetings for Africa and Asia-Pacific next year and then into the global process. This process must be inclusive and all stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector, academia, international organizations and media are invited to contribute.

So, as we close we actually START our work, start our work energized and enlightened by the past two days of intense work.

I would like to thank GEIDCO again for co-organising this Global Conference and the Government of China for their support.

I convey special thanks to the organizers of the breakout sessions, namely the Global Green Growth Institute, the Rocky Mountain Institute and the Office of the Secretary General in collaboration with Ethiopia.

My gratitude goes to all speakers and all participants, who made this Conference come to life and contributed their experiences.

I hope you are inspired to redouble your efforts to make SDG7 a reality!!!

Last but certainly not least, let us thank the staff behind the scenes, the interpreters, staff of GEIDCO and my staff from OHRLLs, and many others who all contributed to making this Conference possible!

Thank you.