

**Statement of Amb. Mr. Khusrav Noziri, ECO Secretary General  
at the Partners' Roundtable for the Launch and Operationalisation  
of the ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO)**

16 March 2022, Virtual Mode

**Your Excellency Mr. Samir Valiyev, Deputy Minister of Energy of  
the Republic of Azerbaijan,  
Dear UNIDO Partners,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am pleased to address this Partners' Roundtable dedicated to the launch and operationalisation of the recently established Clean Energy Centre in our region thanks to ECO-UNIDO collaboration, express my gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and UNIDO for jointly organizing this important event, albeit virtually due to the prevailing COVID-19 conditions. I would also like to warmly welcome all distinguished participants of this meeting.

I am confident that today's discussions about the Centre will enable us to unlock promising opportunities and explore prospects of mutually beneficial partnership.

**Dear Participants,**

Notwithstanding the huge potential and ongoing developments in hydrocarbons, ECO strives to build up a diverse and resilient energy architecture in the region by mainstreaming sustainable energy transition in its energy agenda and transformation to clean energy sources.

Our targeted efforts have been focused on unlocking the ECO region's tremendous cooperation opportunities in renewables and energy efficiency. The aim is clear, we should create an enabling environment to facilitate investments and foster a robust sustainable energy market. This joint ECO-UNIDO Project on the establishment of the ECO Clean Energy Centre is the ultimate example of such sustainable energy transformation efforts. The Centre will become a member of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres which is being implemented across the Globe.

The key objective of the Centre is to increase the access of Member States to modern, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy services, while strengthening regional energy security and mitigating negative externalities in our energy market.

The ECO Secretariat in cooperation with UNIDO has already completed necessary preparatory arrangements by finalising a baseline needs assessment and a feasibility study for the institutional set-up of the Centre. Last year we launched a competitive process for the host country selection. In November 2021, the 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ECO Council of Ministers unanimously adopted the Charter and selected the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the Centre.

In order to immediately maximize the benefits and advantages of the Clean Energy Centre, particularly with the development of a sustainable energy market and related industries, I strongly encourage the distinguished representatives of our Member States to sign the Charter of CECECO. Your signatures will substantially fast track the operationalization of the Centre.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I would also encourage all the participants in this virtual roundtable to be bold and creative in thinking how to contribute to the Centre and jointly exploit the promising opportunities that lie ahead.

In conclusion, let me assure you of Secretariat's strong commitment to making the CECECO a success story. Through the Centre, we shall take all the necessary measures to strengthen our international partnerships; build synergies from our shared, common goals and shape our region's sustainable energy future.

While extending my best regards to you all, I wish successful deliberations to this event.

Thank you.