

Statement of H.E. Mr. Khusrav Noziri
Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization
at the 33rd Meeting of The Energy Charter Conference.
22 November 2022, Ulaanbaatar, virtual mode

Honourable Secretary General of International Energy Charter, Mr. Guy Lentz,
Honourable Mr. Bayarmagnai Myagmarsuren, Vice-Minister of Energy of Mongolia,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to address the 33rd Meeting of The Energy Charter Conference, as well as privileged to extend my warm gratitude to the Ministry of Energy of Mongolia and the Secretariat of International Energy Charter for kind invitation and co-organizing this important event. I would also like to warmly welcome all distinguished participants of this meeting.

Dear participants,

Notwithstanding the huge potential and developments in hydrocarbons, ECO strives for building up the diverse and resilient energy architecture in the region via mainstreaming sustainable energy transition in its overall energy agenda and transformation to clean energy sources. This regional mainstream predominantly targets on unlocking ECO Region's tremendous cooperation opportunities in renewables and energy efficiency, creating an enabling environment for robust sustainable energy markets and investments.

Adapting to this new reality and harnessing these trends to support the energy transition require innovative policies, systems thinking, new sources of finance and advanced business models. Strong political will, mutual trust, good governance, flexibility in negotiations and national legislation, and a coordinated communication strategy emerge as some of the key enablers within regional cooperation to address such necessities.

Regional cooperation to mobilize capacities, knowledge, technology and investment, as well as to establish regional markets is an essential part of the sustainable energy transition for the ECO region.

Particularly, cross-border cooperation and interconnected power grids can cut energy expenditures, improve reliability, and reduce carbon emissions at lower-cost, while increasing the share and synergies among clean energy resources, particularly hydro, wind and solar. This may take the form of joint projects, support schemes or statistical transfers.

With this in mind, the ECO Secretariat with the support of the International Energy Charter have been involved in co-operative interaction to explore possibilities of conducting project on establishment of electricity market for ECO region. In fact, the vast majority of ECO Member States are the parties to the Energy Charter and the rest are observers. Moreover, we have mutual observership status between two organizations.

I also want to note that the ECO region can play an important role in providing natural gas to the countries of Europe and Asia, as well as in diversifying these supplies. Recent events in the world have shown that the countries of the ECO region need to develop a network of existing gas transport corridors and build new ones, taking into account transit to other countries. And we are moving in that direction.

Before concluding, and having acknowledged that Economic Cooperation Organization can play bridging role in meeting the aspirations of its Member States to develop their own energy transition pathways, let me assure you of Secretariat's strong commitment in taking all necessary measures to keep boosting international partnership to draw synergies in our shared interests and common goals for the sustainable energy growth in future.

While expressing once again my sincere appreciation to all of you, I wish this event to be a great success, extending my best wishes to all participants.

Thank you all.