

**STATEMENT BY H.E.MR.BAYARMAGNAI MYAGMARSUREN,
VICE MINISTER OF ENERGY OF MONGOLIA**

At Third Ministerial Conference on Regional

Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific

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Dear Mr. His Excellency

Dear Madam Under-Secretary General of UN, executive secretary of the ESCAP, or Her Excellency

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Widespread economic and logistics restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts have hit the economies of countries hard, sending global market prices of food, fuel, agricultural and energy commodities to record increase, causing fluctuations in the global economy and financial markets, and creating major risks.

On a more positive note, and thanks to the support provided by the United Nations and development partner countries, we have been able to make significant progress in our efforts to limit the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have now fully vaccinated 70 per cent of our citizens, completely lifted domestic restrictions against the pandemic, and fully opened our borders.

Despite these difficult times, the Government of Mongolia has adopted the New Recovery Policy in order to meet our sustainable development goals. In accordance with this policy, we are paying special attention to issues such as infrastructure transport and logistics, energy supply and rural development, the intensification of green development, public-private partnerships, and productivity improvements.

Under this policy, we are planning twenty-two energy recovery projects and eight projects aimed at increasing the generation of renewable energy and the introduction of low-carbon, environmentally friendly green technologies.

The New Recovery policy document also outlines Mongolia's active position in the Northeast Asia Power System Interconnection and the future use of hydrogen.

Currently Mongolia is a net importer buying electricity through cross border transition line from both of our neighbours Russia and China. Unprecedented, global challenges have been accelerated our governments vision to become self-sufficient and mid-term and net exporter in long-term.

Our vision to become net exporter is based on renewable energy deployment in Southern part of the country which have huge potential of wind and solar power that can be transmitted through the region. Improved cross border transmission capacities and cooperation between the countries can be achieved through mutual understanding of clean energy pathways.

We believe that abundant renewable energy resources would play vital role for not only for reaching our country specific targets, but we also believe that it could benefit to supply carbon free energy to Northeast Asian countries and beyond. This initiative is known as The Northeast Asian power interconnection concept.

Until today several studies were undertaken to reveal the potentials of renewable energy export to neighboring countries. Including “Asian super grid – Gobitec” study was carried out in collaboration with Energy charter and stakeholders in 2014.

Following this study, we have worked together with ADB to develop solutions and options for future Northeast Asian power interconnection. Study examined several grid interconnections based on several power trade options between countries in the regions.

The simulations for possible grid connections have indicated that the project is technologically and economically feasible to implement.

We are very appreciative of the endorsement of the Regional Road Map on Power System Connectivity by ESCAP member states last year. Mongolia, through participation in the Expert Working Group on Energy connectivity and its chairmanship of the informal consultation group, is keen to support its development and is looking forward to working with the ESCAP on the implementation of the nine strategies detailed in the Road Map.

Regional Road Map strategies align with the proposals for Northeast Asian power interconnection, and resources can, therefore, be shared across the two initiatives.

Variable renewable energy sources along with emerging technologies such as hydrogen and battery storage can be optimized for stable and reliable source of the energy. Not only power generation sector, but Mongolia's extractive industries poised to be an important supplier of the critical minerals required for the global energy transition.

We believe that the agenda of this conference, Enabling Resilience through Seamless and Sustainable Connectivity, is of the foremost importance to us. It is enabling us to exchange ideas on disaster resilience and crisis management, especially important in times of disruption to the global energy and food supply chains.

I would like to conclude by emphasizing the importance of carbon-free cross-border projects in attaining further global and regional energy cooperation and reaching the universal target of carbon neutrality.

I would like to wish you productive discussion and fruitful results.

Thank you, and may I wish you all productive discussions and fruitful results.