

Statement of SAARC Energy Centre

on the floor of

UN ESCAP Third Session of the Committee on Energy

Thank you, Mr. Chair, Excellencies, and honorable participants!

My name is Ihsanullah Marwat, from SAARC Energy Centre (SEC), representing South Asia. I, on behalf of SEC, am thankful to ESCAP for the invitation to Third Session of the Committee on Energy. Furthermore, I appreciate ESCAP for successfully holding this meeting virtually. ESCAP is always forthcoming in SEC's interventions and has collaborated with us on many occasions. It is also worth mentioning that the information shared by the respectable participants is of great value.

I would also like to apprise this august forum that SAARC Energy Centre is determined to facilitate Member States achieve regional inter-connectivity in electricity in South Asia. SEC has conducted several studies in this regard (all reports are available on SEC's website). SAARC Intergovernmental Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity), was signed by all Member States in November 2014. Bilateral trade of electricity is already in place, among Member States India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. There are opportunities to go for trilateral and multilateral trade of electricity. The Centre looks forward towards successful implementation of the regional roadmap by ESCAPE and offer its full cooperation in future interventions as well.

SEC also realizes the high importance of SDGs for South Asia. Therefore, in the past, we had taken many steps in this direction. This year to facilitate national progress of Member States in achieving SDG 7, SEC is organizing Virtual Consultative Workshop on achieving SDG 7 in South Asia (in September 2021) to devise a joint strategy for South Asia. Participants of this workshop will include representatives of coordinating agencies from Member States, representatives from custodian agencies of SDG7 as facilitators, and we expect ESCAP's collaboration as well. I, on behalf of SEC, would like to invite interested participants to this workshop.

Thank you very much ESCAP!