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Statement

by

Mr. Michael Møller

**United Nations Under-Secretary-General
Acting Executive Secretary of the United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe**

at

Group of Experts on Gas

at

LNG Roundtable

**Geneva, Switzerland
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Ladies and Gentlemen:

Welcome to you all as stakeholders in an industry that is critical for our common energy future. It was important for me to join you – albeit it briefly – to share a few reflections on the value of your work for the United Nations and to place your discussions in the broader frame of our efforts to advance peace, rights and well-being for all.

Ensuring reliable and environmentally responsible supplies of energy at prices that reflect market conditions is a shared challenge. We must reduce greenhouse gas emissions to avert a climate disaster while also facilitating economic development. Private capital, technology and management skills must be mobilized to transform today's systems. Engagement between industry and Government is essential to institute workable investment conditions. Without them, needed investment will not happen.

As you know, I assumed the responsibilities of Acting Executive Secretary of UNECE only last week. But already in these first days, I have been struck by how well-placed the UNECE is for that engagement. Our region produces and consumes two-fifths of the world's energy, produces nearly half of global economic output and holds a dominant position in finance.

UNECE's work supports the Sustainable Energy for All initiative – we facilitate securing an affordable and sustainable energy supply, and we cooperate with the other Regional Commissions in a global effort.

Energy supply is secure if it remains robust despite political or technical disruptions. Energy security requires investment, diversification and flexibility, just as it requires trust, stable relationships, long-term arrangements and dialogue.

Affordability means delivering least cost energy services to consumers to meet their basic needs. It does not mean subsidizing consumption. Prices must meet investment requirements to bring affordable energy in short and long

terms.

Energy security is changing as we de-carbonize energy, ensure access and improve energy intensities. The shifts in the meaning of energy security will persist long after current disturbances have passed. As you know better than me, LNG can turn the world's regional natural gas markets into a truly global one. Natural gas could then play its transformative role. Considering the on-going disturbances, LNG also can improve energy security.

Fundamental change occurs only when rules enable it. UNECE has a defining role in developing multilateral agreements, standards and related norms, and best practices. We count on industry's support and expect it to be a source of innovative and economically-rational solutions. Governments can implement enabling policies that are clear, transparent and stable over the long-term, but only with industry's help.

I thank you for your readiness to play this part, and wish you a successful dialogue.