

## Opening Statement of Dmitry Mariyasin

Prospects for the development of affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

SDG7 Roundtable, Tashkent, 11 June 2021

### Cover Slide

I would like to express gratitude to the Government and the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for organizing the International Interparliamentary Forum on SDGs and the SDG Week preceding the Forum. I am honoured to co-chair the Roundtable on SDG7 with Mr. Erkin Gadoev, Chairman of the Committee on Budget and Economic Reforms of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis.

Sustainable Development Goal 7 underpins achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNECE work on sustainable energy is designed to improve access to affordable and clean energy for all and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector in the region. UNECE is working to reconcile the reality of fossil fuels' share of the energy mix with the need to address climate change while supporting sustainable development, enhance integration of the region's energy markets, and facilitate the transition to a sustainable energy system. Countries of the UNECE region need to accelerate attainment of their commitments and objectives on sustainable energy.

### Slide 1

I will speak about a few areas that we in UNECE see as vital to achieving targets of SDG7.

One of them is **High Performance Buildings**. Buildings consume over 70% of the electric power generated and 40% of primary energy and are responsible for 40% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions because of the energy services they require. Buildings embody significant CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the products used to construct them yet could serve as carbon storage with use of wood products. Our High Performance Buildings Initiative (HPBI) aims to: 1) move the dial on building energy performance, GHG emissions and indoor air quality; 2) improve the global supply chain for the construction business; and 3) accelerate the uptake of high-performance best practices. The HPBI involves extending the network of centres of excellence, raising funding for a range of dissemination, training, and deployment activities, and recruiting academia into the research leg of the initiative. UNECE is leading a consortium of partners that will soon start implementation of the project **Improving the energy efficiency of the global building supply chain industry and its products to deliver high performance buildings** funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of Germany in seven countries. Uzbekistan is one of them.

### Slide 2

Another important area is **sustainable resource management**. Resource production, transformation and use, if properly managed, can ensure beneficial social and environmental outcomes. UNECE is extending the UN Framework Classification for

Resources (UNFC) to a full-fledged management system for resources (UNRMS). In support of various global resource initiatives underway, UNECE has proposed a five point action plan for sustainable resource management including: 1) A comprehensive Socio-Environmental-Economic Contract to Operate that integrates quality of life, just transition, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and environmental stewardship; 2) Sustainable Finance Principles and Taxonomy – investors should move to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG)-focused funding; 3) Sustainable Resource Management System -- industry should align with a shared principles-based, integrated, sustainable resource management framework based on UNFC and UNRMS, 4) Supply Chain Traceability – a comprehensive framework for traceability, transparency, and sustainability in resource supply chains; and 5) Strategic Environmental Assessments of plans and programmes.

#### Slide 3

Accelerating uptake of **renewable energy** corresponds to target 7.2 of SDG7. Our current work on renewables involves tracking progress in the uptake of renewable energy in the region; exchanging experience and good practices on increasing the uptake of renewable energy; and cross-cutting cooperation, for example with natural gas infrastructure, to strengthen and accelerate the integration of renewable energy (electricity and gases). The latter activity aims to accelerate deployment of variable renewable electricity (VRE) generation using existing gas infrastructure to provide needed flexibility. Decarbonisation can proceed using flexible natural gas-fired generation to enable VRE integration. Production of so called “green” hydrogen with renewable energy and its use in various economic sectors will contribute to deeper decarbonisation.

#### Slide 4

Now I will mention **methane management** in extractive industries. Reducing methane emissions offers significant climate change benefits, especially in the near term, as there is a large economic reduction potential and cost-effective mitigation technologies often are readily available. UNECE work on methane involves developing best practice guidelines to address monitoring and mitigating methane emissions in the oil, gas, and coal sectors. We have developed best practice guidance for both coal mine methane and abandoned mine methane. UNECE has contributed to describing best practices for monitoring, reporting and verifying (MRV) methane emissions from the oil and gas sector and to proposing mitigation measures that could be adopted easily in the short term. The work on best practices for the oil and gas sector to date is a compendium of practices currently in place. Full-fledged, technical level best practice guidance from the UN for the oil and gas sector would be an appropriate next step and it might be of significant interest to Uzbekistan.

#### Final Slide

I would like to wish all participants of this round table a successful and productive event. Thank you!