

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Dear Colleagues

As the Vice chair of the Group of Experts on Renewable Energy, I am delighted and honoured to present you Georgian experience related to developments and achievements in the field of renewable energy.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the very productive and the cooperation between Economic Commission for Europe and Georgia on the sustainable energy matters within number of projects and activities of the commission.

In the beginning, I would like to bring to your attention regarding the Renewable Energy Law of Georgia, which was adopted in 2019 and since then relevant by-laws have been developed according to relevant EU directive. It should be mentioned that we are actively working in this direction now. At the same time, transposition of the recast of renewable energy directive is active phase of development.

In this regard, we hope to submit the amendments of RE Law to the parliament of Georgia in the upcoming months so that by the end of this year it will be approved according to the Directive's requirements.

Once adopted we will move our attention to development and adoption of relevant secondary legislation deriving from the law. Which will be another tool to promote renewables in the country.

According to the existing RE law, there are 18 secondary acts. Currently 8 secondary acts are already adopted. 1 by-law on the Rules for calculating the greenhouse gas impact of biofuels, bioliquids is already drafted. The work on other secondary legislation is ongoing with support from local and international donors and experts.

Moreover, as for the Guarantees of Origin, in December 2022, the Georgian National Energy and Water Supply Regulatory Commission (GNERC) has adopted resolution on "Approving the rules for issuing the certificate of origin for electricity produced from renewable sources".

The amendments introduced operational rules for the GO registry, including issuing, transferring, withdrawing and cancelling the certificates. Besides, it defined the content of the certificates according to the renewable Law.

Permitting procedures will simplify and streamline faster deployment of renewables. GSE, as the designated issuing body for guarantees of origin, signed a direct agreement with the service provider and started using the national electronic registry developed during the regional project.

RES new scheme was transformed in December of 2022 and is based on competition and market principles, which will contribute to the development of the energy sector of Georgia. Development of projects under the mentioned scheme will be carried out in accordance with the PPP legislation and in the form of CfD.

The capacity auction will be held for 3 years starting this year in several lots, for a total amount of 1500 MW. The scheme covers Hydropower plants, Wind power plants, Solar power plants and Other renewables (such as Hydrogen, biogas, , geothermal, biomass etc.)

Regarding the local electricity generation of the current year's 6 months, 79% of electricity is generated from renewable sources, where 78% comes from hydropower and 1% from wind.

Thanks to the good hydrology this year, we have excess of electricity generated by HPP in spring summer months. In this regards, electricity export was equal to 6% of total generation in the past 6th month.

Speaking of new memorandums signed for development of renewable energy the situation from November 2022 till now is following:

- 25 MoU on HPPs with installed capacity of around 134 MW;
- 4 MoU on Wind Power Plants with installed capacity of a bit more than 111 MW;

Unfortunately, there are no industrial scale solar power plant at this point, but this existing support schemes we are sure they will be developed in the near perspective as well.

Finally, I would like to share brief information about net-metering mechanism, which was introduced in 2016. As you are aware, in 2020 there were some important updates in the regulations such as, increased maximum capacity of micro generator from 100 kW to 500 kW, also other useful updates. According to the data received from GNERC in the beginning of August 2023, this is a successful initiative. For example, in December 2021 installed capacity was equal to 14.3 MW while in August 2023 it is around 52 MW. Should be mentioned, that during this period the increase is equal to a little bit less than 40 megawatts. As for the number of micro power plants, at the end of 2021 we had 349 micro generators, while in August 2023 it is equal to 911 microgenerators.

In cooperation with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and The Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE), the country receives significant support in terms of experience sharing on renewable Energy and other cross-cutting matters.

It is worth to mention that, Hydrogen matters have already appeared in the activities of Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE). Georgia thinks that this is a perspective direction for our energy policy, the country is accordingly working on Hydrogen Strategy Concept which will be followed by Strategy and Action Plan. Additionally, attention should be paid to the energy storage technologies, such as battery storage as well as grid improvements to integrate more renewable energy. This all, will have significant impact on the social and economic situation by creating better environments and green jobs.

In this regards, It is essential to cooperate with UNECE and its member states, specifically within Group of Experts on Renewable Energy (GERE), because the group has relevant skills, experience and knowledge to promote sustainable energy systems in the region.

Once again I would like to thank you all for your cooperation in supporting us to reach our ambitious 2030 targets.

Wish you a very fruitful session today!