Dear Colleagues,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to UNESCAP and UNECE for a wonderful cooperation with us.

Obviously, energy transition towards sustainable and resilient society has utmost importance for the international society. Due to the pandemic situation occurred by COVID-19 the situation became more challenging. As we all know, the international best practice shows that Sustainable energy development and transition to sustainable energy is a step forward to a low-emission economy, as it is about using energy wisely and using energy generated from clean energy sources and technologies. However, sustainable energy development is not only renewable energy utilization; it is a synergy between Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Technology and Policy, which requires the availability of resources, proper investment and a strong political will. Although, a common regional cooperation should be a fundamental platform for the sustainable energy development.

The energy sector of Georgia is developing exactly in this direction. Our aim is full and effective utilization of tremendous untapped renewable energy potential in hydro and wind. Besides, Georgia has a significant potential of geothermal, solar and biomass resources.

Historically Georgia has a good experience of hydropower development. Currently, 105 small, medium and large-scale hydro power plants are operating with 3350 MW installed capacity.

However, to meet increasing energy demand, overcome the winter deficit and to decease the dependence on imported energy resources the we are developing additional generation units. I will not recite all projects developing recently, but I would like to emphasize that in total 139 renewable energy projects (116 hydro, 18 wind and 5 solar) are under development on different stages.

Even though electrification rate in Georgia is equal to 99.9%, there are still approximately 350-400 off-grid households. With the decision by Government, relevant financing the electrification program for Off-Grid villages were provided by solar PVs in 2019.

It is also should be highlighted big pressure on forest due to illegal tree cutting which only brings challenges for local population. In this regard, with support of GCF we will start project to promote sustainable forest management and EE technologies in mountainous regions to use sustainable biomass

To increase the volume of clean energy export and therefore to support the cross-border electricity trade with our neighbors we are developing a new Electricity Market Model and Electricity Trade Mechanism. The aim of market model is to develop a hydropower private

sector, transmission system, trade instruments and to improve mechanism for investment risk reduction. That will help hydropower generators to sell electricity abroad and in other increasing competitive markets.

We have developed following legislative frameworks:

- **The Law on Energy Efficiency**;
- **The Law on Renewable Energy**
- **The Law on Energy Labelling;**
- **The Law on Energy Performance of Buildings;**
- **NECP is under development**

But this this not enough. Relevant and operational by-laws should be developed and implemented. But also, awareness raising should be given priority, since without active public involvement there won't be any result.

I would like to highlight that Covid-19 pandemic once again showed us the importance of transition to sustainable energy development and urgence need for its promotion. With the updated NDC document in 2021 we have taken much more ambition goal to decrease emissions in energy sector by 15 percent.

We believe that energy sector development in Georgia is promoting sustainable energy development, but more active development is needed to respond sustainable development goal in the future. Our effort will even strengthen in the frame of regional cooperation with strong support of international donor and financial organizations and fruitful cooperation with neighboring countries.

Thank for your attention and wish you a successful day!