

Statement of Georgia - Ms. Margalita Arabidze

Agenda Item 3(b) 24th of February 14:00-16:00

Dear colleagues,

First of all, I would like to thank UNESCAP for developing SDG 7 Roadmap Tool for Georgia which was officially published in the beginning of 2021. For this please accept my sincere gratitude for such a generous work during these two years and preparation of the strategic document - **SDG 7 Roadmap Tool for Georgia**. I would like to acknowledge that ESCAP had closely collaborated with Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, provided assistance and expert support in the preparation of the foregoing document. Please be aware, that the Ministry looks to ESCAP as a source of mutual knowledge and experience exchange which will be crucial to our active and beneficial engagement. The proposed road map will serve to be a major guidance which will result in a clear strategy for the implementation of SDG 7 commitments and obligations. At the same time, I would like to acknowledge the crucial role of Energy Division representatives in promoting the consciousness and supporting in finalizing the process with this significant outcome. Also, I would like to thank local stakeholders for their active engagement during whole the process. I would like to highlight the stakeholder consultation meetings that was help in Georgia in 2019 and also online meeting that was held in mid-2020. We had such a fruitful meeting and such insightful comments and recommendations from participants.

Despite challenges caused by the COVID-19 we managed to work effectively during the whole year and bring to live this important roadmap. I hope our future cooperation will be fruitful based on the experience we created together.

Based on the roadmap it is clear that, despite the low cost of energy in the country, energy efficiency measures have no alternative in terms of economic, environmental and energy security aspects. It is the most cost-effective way to decrease energy intensity in the country, which is still very high, as well as to implement new and up-to-date technologies in various sectors.

We believe, that energy sector development in Georgia is promoting sustainable energy development and will respond sustainable development goal in the future.

Wish you all a nice day ahead and hope to see you in person soon.