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Workshop “Critical Element of the Green Bridge Initiative: Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies”

9-10 March 2016, Astana, Kazakhstan

REPORT

I. Background and Organization

1. The **Workshop “Critical Element of the Green Bridge Initiative: Advanced Fossil Fuel Technologies”** was held in Astana, Kazakhstan from 9 to 10 March 2016. The Workshop was organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Kazakh Ministry of Energy, General Electric and KAZENERGY.
2. The Workshop was attended by 60 participants from government, industry, research centers, academia and NGOs from Kazakhstan, Japan, Russia, Switzerland, UK, and USA as well as representatives from International Agencies.

II. Conclusions and Recommendations

The participants of the Workshop made the following conclusions and recommendations for consideration interested parties:

3. While developing its National Action Plan to meet SE4ALL goals, Kazakhstan has to pay attention to new Clean Technologies in order to consider both the country’s energy resources potential and environmental issues.
4. National policy documents from Kazakhstan show that coal will continue to be a major energy source in Kazakhstan over the medium and potentially long term. At the same

time country underlined the importance to move towards a more sustainable energy system. Clean coal technologies can make a significant contribution towards increasing sustainability.

5. There are number of the modern clean coal technologies, which could be implemented in Kazakhstan and other Central Asian countries, utilizing regional coal resources, which would enhance the transition to a low-carbon energy economy. Increased efficiency, flexible operation to support renewables and Carbon Capture and Storage are key technologies that could deliver such a transition. The workshop identified that carbon capture and storage technologies should receive policy parity alongside other low emission technologies.
6. Participants felt that there is a need for strong policies to promote clean coal power generation in support of sustainable energy development, in particular for countries where coal is a base for their economy. Such policies could include appropriate legal framework, economic incentives, and setting possible targets. In that respect, it noted with appreciation the information related to the availability of technical support from international technical cooperation programmes delivered by various organizations including the UNDP and UN ECE.
7. In light of the above, the Workshop participants share that view that the considered technologies have good merits and could be a feasible option for sustainable coal utilization. The development and deployment of such technologies could be enhanced through strategic partnerships with all stakeholders, including the governments, international development partners, funding agencies/banks and the private sector. In that context, participants appreciated the initiative of UNECE in developing cooperation and synergies to promote clean coal technical assistance projects in Central Asia.
8. In realizing the potential for large scale energy resources infrastructure development projects, the Workshop participants noted the importance of improved coordination and international cooperation and assistance to support national and regional efforts in clean coal issues. In that respect participants called for increased engagement from the United Nations system, development partners, multi- and bi-lateral funding agencies and donor community to increase technical and capacity building assistance while supporting the creation of frameworks (both financial and regulatory) to support development and deployment.
9. Workshop participants noted with appreciation the information shared by several organizations, which have initiated or planning to initiate activities/projects on clean fossil fuels development and encouraged them to extend their cooperation and synergies with all interested parties.
10. The participants of the workshop supported proposal to hold a Ministerial Conference under the auspice of UNECE under the framework of EXPO 2017 “Future Energy”.

III. Acknowledgement

11. The Workshop expressed its appreciation to the Government of Kazakhstan for supporting this Workshop.

IV. Adoption of the Report

12. The Workshop adopted its report on 9 March 2016.