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by

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I wish to commend the UNECE and this Committee for the excellent work conducted over the years under the Energy Efficiency 21 Project. This project has always demonstrated the vital role that "energy efficiency" plays in contributing to energy security and sustainable development.

The Energy Efficiency 21 Project has truly achieved significant accomplishments in furthering the goals of:

(1) Developing sustainable and commercial approaches to delivering community-based energy efficient and renewable energy services; and

(2) Improving energy efficiency in the industrial, residential and commercial sectors through market-oriented policies and programs.

In particular, I believe that your "Energy Efficiency Investment Project Development for Climate Change Mitigation" will promote innovation and the market introduction of clean energy technologies – which is so critical to advancing energy security and sustainable development.

The three-pronged approach taken by this initiative, focusing at the same time on training, policy reform and the development of financing mechanisms, is essential to fostering self-sustaining financing and replicable projects.

This is a practical approach that affirms the need for:

(1) Developing commercial infrastructure with supportive policy and institutional frameworks;
(2) Building long-term public-private partnerships; and
(3) Taking a holistic approach to market development of clean energy technologies and energy efficient products and services.

Moreover, this initiative and the activities of Energy Efficiency 21 Project generally reflect a broad definition of "energy efficiency" that covers the full range of energy use – from generation through delivery to end-use.

Finally, I believe that all of these activities are laying the fundamental building blocks for developing more integrated, diversified and decentralized energy systems on a community-scale -- systems that will increase the reliability and efficient performance of the grid while at the same time incorporating distributed energy, district heating, combined heat and power and renewable energy technologies in a manner that optimizes energy performance and environmental benefits.