



NATIONS UNIES

COMMISSION ÉCONOMIQUE
POUR L'EUROPE

ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ

ЕВРОПЕЙСКАЯ ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ
КОМИССИЯ

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR EUROPE

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement

by

Mr. Sven ALKALAJ

United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

at

**Vienna Energy Forum 2013
(Vienna, 28-30 May 2013)**

28 May 2013 – High Level Panel I: Energy in Post-2015 Agenda

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,
I would like to thank you for inviting me to address the High Level Panel I on
the **Energy in Post-2015 Agenda**.

The Secretary-General identifies progress on sustainable development as a top priority, with the key building blocks in a broader post-2015 sustainable development framework being energy, food and nutrition, water, and transport.

In view of the importance of relevant global conferences and initiatives, such as the Rio+20 Summit and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General, **ECE plays an active part** in the appropriate regional and global implementation of their outcomes. In this direction, UNECE programme of work supports improvement of **quality of life, sustainable development, competitiveness and economic prosperity, as well as integration** of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, as well as South-Eastern Europe, into the pan-European economy .

Its **core strategy** focuses on (a) the development of **legally binding instruments, norms, standards and guidelines**, (b) the provision of **technical assistance to provide policy advice, capacity-building** and filed projects to support the implementation of those norms and standards by countries with economies in transition and (c) support the organization of a **policy dialogue, the exchange of experience and best practices** in the areas of ECE expertise.

On Energy, UNECE works to promote a **sustainable energy development strategy** for the region. It develops policy recommendations by drawing on international dialogue and good practice from across the region and, upon requests of governments, assists requesting governments in capacity building, policy reforms.

UNECE also works to **reduce energy poverty** through improving the energy and resource efficiency of housing and urban environments. Achieving this objective is complicated for planned economies in many of the region's poorer countries.

Woody biomass provides almost 50% of renewable energy in the region. The UNECE acts as the regional focal point for data and governmental policy debate on wood energy and plays a key role in helping countries to determine a proper mix of renewable energy sources based on a correct balance between social, economic and environmental needs.

This work contributes to **mitigating climate change**, through increased energy efficiency, improved technology and a balanced use of renewable energy sources.

At its **65th session**, held from 9 to 11 April at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the UNECE adopted the **outcome document of the review of the 2005 UNECE reform**, which defines the strategic priorities for UNECE's work for the coming years.

As result, the UNECE subprogramme on Sustainable Energy, through its

Committee on Sustainable Energy (CSE) and subsidiary bodies, will continue to provide member States with a platform for international dialogue and cooperation. It will carry out a **programme of work** in the field of sustainable energy with a view to providing access to affordable and clean energy to all, **in line with the “Sustainable Energy for All”** initiative of the Secretary-General, and to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the carbon footprint of the energy sector.

Through its convening power, **UNECE will continue to support multilateral policy dialogue, knowledge-sharing and expert networking** at the regional level on sustainable energy, and will work to promote intraregional and interregional cooperation, in cooperation with UN regional commissions and through collaboration with other regional organizations.