

## **Vienna Energy Forum 2018**

### **Welcome Remarks**

Dear Director General Li,

dear President Chatardová,

dear Under-Secretary-General Zhenmin

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you to what is already the sixth Vienna Energy Forum. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the Forum's founding in 2008.

Over the past ten years the Vienna Energy Forum has managed to establish itself as the leading international platform for discussing the realisation of tangible results to sustainable development challenges.

The Vienna Energy Forum would not be held regularly if it was not supported by a number of partners who work alongside UNIDO to make this Forum a success: SEforALL, the Austrian Development Agency, IIASA and also the "Global Forum for Sustainable Energy", known as GFSE which was founded and is managed by our Ambassador Irene Giner-Reichl.

Having discussed different topics over the years, we will today once more focus on SDG7 itself, the assurance of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. On what has been accomplished

and especially on what still needs to be done over the next 12 years in order to reach the goal in 2030.

I believe that especially the Round Tables will pay attention to the different goals that are connected to the sustainable energy agenda like health, gender equality, climate, infrastructure, industrialisation and agriculture, showing once more how broad this topic is.

In light of the High-Level Political Forum to be held in New York in July, which will among other goals review SDG7, what we work on here today gains particular importance as it will contribute substantially to the HLPF.

Excellencies,

I am delighted that this Forum has firmly established itself in Vienna, thereby creating a mutually beneficial partnership between the Forum and the city. While the Forum gains momentum from Vienna's status as host to many IOs and as energy hub, the city in turn attracts attention through the Forum as a place where sustainability and green living matter, emphasising its role as a centre of worldwide energy dialogue.

This is for example reflected in Austria's EU presidency in the second half of this year: it will be highlighted by a sustainable energy event for the promotion of the "Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres", which Austria has established together with UNIDO over the recent years.

In this context, I have the particular pleasure to announce an additional financial contribution by the Austrian Development Agency for the preparatory phase for an ECO Clean Energy Centre. With this Centre the "Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres" would expand to Central Asia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As some of you may know, energy is a topic I have been analysing closely for years. I would venture to say that what usually comes to mind when

talking about energy in a global context is still not primarily sustainability, but rather the geopolitical implications of gas and oil. Yet the importance of SDG7 and the wide-ranging consequences that follow where its implementation lacks are becoming more and more visible to a broader public. But without doubt, we still have a long road ahead of us and we have to move faster. Luckily enough, this Forum provides the perfect platform to help us speed up the process.

Let me thank all organisers and partners for their continuous and tireless work and support for making this Forum once more a success both in content and organization.

I wish all of you a constructive Sixth Vienna Energy Forum!

Thank you.