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Statement

by

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United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Executive Secretary

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at

SDG 13 and interlinkages with other SDGs

– Climate action

10/07/2024, CR 4, New York

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Mr. Chair,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

- The urgency for climate action has never been more apparent, yet our collective and national efforts remain insufficient. This shortfall critically threatens the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Conversely, effective climate initiatives can positively impact various SDGs, including poverty, health, water, clean energy, innovation, employment, and more, fostering a future where sustainability and prosperity go hand in hand.
 - The energy transition is vital for achieving net-zero pathways. In the UNECE region, primary energy consumption is increasingly covered by renewables, but progress is uneven and much remains to be done. Globally, addressing high-emitting sectors like transport is crucial. Sectoral emission reduction strategies foster partner action, enhance institutional coordination, and improve progress monitoring. Local initiatives are also essential in shaping innovative mobility solutions, boosting resilience, and developing robust partnerships.
 - In Africa, climate action presents opportunities to optimally use abundant resources, build resilient economies, create green jobs, empower women, and advance inclusion. Realizing these opportunities requires additional policy support and stronger international cooperation. The Latin American and Caribbean region holds over 50% of the global lithium resources essential for the energy transition, but lacks the means to produce low-carbon technologies and engage in global value chains. Everywhere, it is imperative to tackle the barriers that prevent us from unlocking the
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transformative potential of climate action.

- The impacts of climate change are already evident. Despite their minimal contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions, many developing countries are highly vulnerable. In the Arab region, adaptation remains a priority, while committing to an inclusive energy transition that leaves no one behind. Only 14 Asia-Pacific countries have submitted adaptation strategies - a number that must increase. Nature-based solutions can significantly reduce the economic and human impact of frequent extreme weather and climate events. The impacts of climate change are often felt through water, which also has an important role in enabling the introduction of mitigation initiatives.
 - All regions must enhance climate finance and accelerate both mitigation and adaptation efforts. Strengthened international cooperation and technology transfers, especially for the least developed countries, are essential for building strong, inclusive economies. As we strive for a prosperous and resilient future, ensuring youth participation in climate action is crucial.
 - Thank you for your attention.
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