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Statement by

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at

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Good morning, distinguished guests and colleagues, and welcome to this 33rd session of the UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy.

I am delighted to **launch the dialogue to promote a just transition approach towards resilient and carbon neutral energy systems** in the region.

As we face the urgent challenge of climate change, we must recognize that **our path forward is not just about technological change and deep decarbonization of the energy systems, but about people, communities, and just and equitable energy transition approaches.**

Three years ago, UNECE adopted a **framework for building resilient energy systems based on three pillars: energy security, affordability, and environmental sustainability.** This framework aims to ensure that our energy needs are met through diverse sources, costs are reduced while increasing efficiency, and the overall carbon footprint of the energy system is lowered.

However, we must acknowledge that this ongoing **energy transition, while highly necessary and in urgent need of acceleration, comes with challenges.** Across the region there is evidence that the transition is disrupting carbon- and energy-intensive industries and the communities that depend on them. This is why **embracing the concept of a just transition now is so crucial.** We at UNECE had already adopted an approach that includes focusing on supporting communities, local economies, and the environment throughout the just transition process in coal mining regions and we believe now it is important to mainstream the just transition approach across the whole energy sector.

A just transition approach requires us to engage with all stakeholders, from policymakers to local communities. It also demands that the social impacts of our energy transition are assessed at the planning stage and that protective mechanisms and policies are thus developed early on to prepare for the new, more sustainable reality.

Today's Dialogue is an opportunity for us to learn from each other. I am pleased to note that we will hear concrete examples of good practices in just and

equitable transitions from countries, organisations and stakeholders across the UNECE region. The Committee's subsidiary bodies, our Groups of Experts, will share insights on how their work contributes to this vital cause and we will also **explore opportunities to strengthen international collaboration and identify synergies to help our region achieve resilient energy systems in a just and equitable way.**

Crucially, in October this year, UNECE will host the Regional Review meeting for progress towards the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Beijing+30, which will take stock of our progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women. **In light of preparations for this event,** we must ensure that our **approach to just transition addresses gender equality and intergenerational justice.** The energy systems we build today will shape the world our children and grandchildren will inherit. We have a responsibility to ensure that this future is not only sustainable but also fair and inclusive.

The path ahead is challenging, but it's one we must take together. **By embracing a just transition, we can build energy systems that are not only resilient to future shocks but also fair and inclusive for all members of our society.**

Thank you, and I wish you all a productive session.