

Building Global Energy Interconnection to Promote Sustainable Global Development
----- Preparatory Meeting of the United Nations High-level Political Forum
22nd Feb, 2018
Wu Xuan

The President of ECOSOC Marie Chatardová,
Distinguished Under Secretary General Liu Zhenmin, Under Secretary General Shamshad Akhtar,
Ladies and gentlemen,

This preparatory meeting will review past achievements and lessons, and sharing experiences in order to create momentum for the upcoming United Nations High-level Political Forum. The meeting also aims to promote in-depth cooperation in line with the theme of the sustainable development of energy, which is of great significance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Firstly, on behalf of the Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization (GEIDCO) and Chairman Liu Zhenya, I would like to congratulate the organizers of this meeting and express my sincere gratitude for the care and support of the UN DESA (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs), UN ESCAP, senior representatives from governments, industries and international agencies. Now, I would like to share with you all three perspectives on the development of Global Energy Interconnection (or GEI) in relation to the theme of today's meeting.

1. Building GEI has emerged from a Mere Concept into Global Action

On 26th September, 2018, **Chinese President Xi Jinping** proposed discussions on building GEI at the UN Development Summit, blazing a new trail for global energy transition and sustainable development, which gained wide international recognition and response. **UN Secretary General António Guterres** pointed out that global interconnectivity allows for inclusivity for energy to reach everybody in need. GEI is the key to combating global climate change, and realizing inclusive and sustainable growth worldwide. The UN Secretary General spoke highly of the efforts of GEIDCO on promoting global energy cooperation, emphasized the importance of such efforts for implementing the “2030 Agenda” and the Paris Agreement, while called on governments to take further actions to promote global energy transformation. The EU, ASEAN, AU (African Union), the League of Arab States, the Latin American Energy Organization(OLADE), the World Bank, the IEA and other international organizations, as well as the national governments of Norway, Sweden, Greece, Brazil, Chile, Egypt and Ethiopia, alongside a number of businesses, research institutions have all attached great importance to the building of GEI and have taken active actions intended for promoting project implementation.

2. Building GEI will contribute to the Implementation of all 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda

GEI is a clean energy dominated, electricity-centric modern energy system that is globally interconnected, jointly constructed and mutually beneficial. It is an important platform for the mass development, transmission and use of clean energy worldwide. In essence, GEI equals “**Smart Grid + UHV Grid + Clean Energy**”. The smart grid is the foundation, the UHV grid is the key and clean energy is the priority. Building GEI will promote “**Two Replacements, One Increase, and One Restore,**” or in other words, clean replacement and electricity replacement. It will greatly increase the level of electrification and restoring fossil fuels to their basic attributes as an industrial raw material, so as to fundamentally solve problems such as shortage of global energy resources, environmental pollution, climate

change and universal access to electricity.

On 1st November, 2017, GEIDCO and UN DESA successfully co-organized the High-Level Symposium at the UN headquarters. Both UN Secretary General António Guterres and Under Secretary General Liu Zhenmin attended the meeting and made keynote speeches, during which GEIDCO released GEI Action Plan to Promote the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Plan proposed Ten Actions of GEI to implement 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, including concept promotion, clean development, universal power access, power grid interconnection, electricity replacement, smart grid, energy efficiency promotion, technology innovation, capacity building and policy support. The inclusion of GEI in the UN framework for the implementation of 2030 Agenda provides a systematic and practical solution to realizing SDGs, especially the realization of SDG7 on ensuring universal access to modern energy, increasing the share of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency and expanding infrastructure. Through building GEI, by 2030, 94% of the world population will have access to electricity; the number of people without access to electricity will be reduced from 1.06 billion to less than 500 million; the share of renewable energy in primary energy consumption will grow from 19% to 35%; the share of electricity in user-end energy consumption will be increased from 18.5% to more than 30%; the annual decrease of energy intensity in major industrial countries will be expanded by 1 to 2.5 percentage points; clean energy will replace nearly 6 billion tons of standard oil on an annual basis; and greenhouse gas emissions will be limited to within 40 billion tons. In this way, we can effectively address climate change.

3. Sticking to the Principle of Joint Consultation, Co-development, Mutual Sharing and Common Benefit to Promote the Innovative Development of GEI

Currently, building GEI is technologically feasible, economically competitive, and politically viable. Therefore, the conditions for speeding up the development of GEI are ready. What is needed now is to strengthen the levels of cooperation to facilitate the implementation of related projects. We need to collectively formulate international conventions and rules and establish effective coordination mechanisms in order to promote the development of clean energy, global power trade, cross-border power grid interconnection and coordinated grid operation. We need to work out a development strategy and formulate plan to incorporate the building of GEI into the energy strategy of different regions and countries, while strengthening the efforts for policy and financial support. We also need to promote the implementation of grid connection projects, and pool resources and capital from individual governments, power utilities, financial institutions and international organizations so as to promote innovation in GEI technology, equipment, standards and business models, which will in turn enable the construction of cross-border grid interconnection projects.

Ladies and gentlemen, building GEI concerns not only the wellbeing of mankind, but also the sustainable development of the world. GEIDCO is willing to join hands with all sides in an effort to promote the inclusion of GEI in the agenda of the UN high-level political forum for common action and make greater contribution to the transition of global energy and implementation the “2030 Agenda”.

Thank you.
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