



HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON SDG 7 ROADMAP FOR INDONESIA

1 December 2020 | 10:00 – 11:30 hrs | Indonesia

**Speech by Hon. Mercy Barends, MP, Indonesia,
Chair, Green Economy Caucus, Board member, Air Quality Asia**

Madame Executive Secretary, UNESCAP, Honourable Ministers of Development Planning and Energy, Honourable Deputy Speaker, Madame President, AirQualityAsia

Excellencies and Distinguished colleagues.

First of all, I want to say thank you for this opportunity to address you to UNESCAP and AirQuality Asia of which I serve as a Board member. It is an honour to address this important and timely High-Level Policy Dialogue which will be a significant step for us to move forward in implementing the SDGs, particularly SDG 7.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Apart from the Climate Change crisis, we are also currently facing, the Covid-19 pandemic. This pandemic can serve as a small glimpse and a reminder to all of us of the crisis that will come if we run the business as usual without taking real and significant action to fight Climate Change. Other problems that very likely to arise include extreme air pollution, rising sea levels, massive migration, and increasing temperatures; making the earth an uninhabitable place. Therefore, we will have to take a serious effort toward implementing the UNSDGs 2030.

Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, as well as other countries around the world, have made their commitments during the COP 21 Paris Agreement in 2015. In Indonesia, the Paris Agreement is ratified and translated into Law no. 16 of 2016 concerning the Ratification of Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Under this regulation, Indonesia has a target to reduce carbon emissions by 29% with its own efforts and 41% with international assistance. With the regulation being ratified, Indonesia has now been working on the decarbonization, with several sectors as the main focus, such as energy sector, transportation, and forestry.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,



Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability. Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today – security, climate change, food production, jobs or increasing incomes. Goal 7 of the SDGs aims to correct this enormous imbalance by ensuring everyone has access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by the year 2030.

In Indonesia, particularly within the energy sector, this goal is translated into Government Regulation No. 79 of 2014 covering the National Energy Policy. In regards to New and Renewable Energy (EBT), Indonesia has a target to achieve the share of Renewable Energy in the national energy mix of 23% by 2025 and 31% by 2050. However, in reality, we are currently at 9.15% and we still have a long way to go to achieve this target. Some things that can be done to reduce carbon emissions in the energy sector are by implementing energy efficiency, implementing clean coal technology, and increasing policy support in the energy sector towards clean energy.

Indonesia currently has a 442 GW of renewable energy resource potential, consisting of several types of renewable energy, for example, 94.3 GW coming from hydropower, and 28.5 GW coming from geothermal energy, which is 40% of geothermal resources worldwide. In addition to that, oil reserves in Indonesia are predicted to only last until 2028. Therefore, these things need to be used as a reason for us to focus on developing renewable energy, not only as an additional energy reserve but as main energy as well.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The issue of carbon emissions and the climate crisis is a multisectoral problem and its handling also requires a multidisciplinary approach. Everyone has a significant role to play in fighting the climate crisis, whether it be from the private sector, industry, academia, government, society and many others. As legislators, especially in Commission VII of House of Representatives of Indonesia, what we are doing now is formulating and ensuring policymaking that can fight the climate crisis and support the development of sustainable development, for example, Renewable Energy Bill.

The Renewable Energy Bill has become a priority list for the national legislation program (Prolegnas) at the Commission VII of House of Representatives of Indonesia. Currently, Commission VII, as well as the Green Economy Caucus are having active discussions with many stakeholders, such as the private sectors, academia, NGOs, and many others, to get their input and their perspectives on issues related



to the development of Renewable Energy in Indonesia such as the financing mechanisms, political and bureaucratic support, and issues related to intermittent technology. Hopefully, following the passing of the Renewable Energy Bill, these issues can be tackled and it will eventually lead to the robust progression of renewable energy development in Indonesia as the crucial part of the implementation of SDG 7 in Indonesia.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Members of Parliament play a key role in achieving this through sustainable policy-making. The Green Economy Caucus (GEC) is a network of legislators engaged in sustainable development issues and works closely with AirQualityAsia, an international air quality parliamentary advocacy group working on measurable improvement in air quality in Asia through national energy policy and emissions regulation strengthening.

. In Indonesia the Goals of the Green Economy Caucus are:

- a. Establishing the parliamentary-based members of GEC, which come from various political backgrounds, commissions, and political parties, and have the same significant interest in the Green Economy concept.
- b. Proposing recommendations and being actively involved in relevant policy-making and legislative processes in regards to the Green Economy.
- c. Establishing the GEC positions and strengthening the GEC's influence on its involvement in various policy-making activities related to the Green Economy.

Thus far, the GEC has opened its doors of discussion beyond the parliamentarians themselves and have, therefore, opted for a multidisciplinary approach, where seminars and FGDs involve various stakeholders such as academia, government, private and public sectors, activists, youth. This kind of engagement is hoped will push scientific-based policies at the Indonesian House of Representatives to achieve a green economy for all.



Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we advance towards our climate goals, it is also imperative that we make progress towards the goal of universal access to energy by 2030, at the core of SDG 7. To do this, international cooperation, effective partnerships and evidence-based policymaking are essential. We need to continue working collectively to consolidate a robust system of monitoring and evaluation of SDG7 to ensure continued progress and inform policymaking.

On our part, we remain fully committed to supporting this collective endeavour with our work on ensuring the policymaking is on the right path towards the SDGs. As we move forward, we are confident that renewable energy will play a decisive role in achieving sustainable development and a climate-safe future.

Thank you