

**Welcome Speech at the High-Level Conference
"Cooperation on Energy Security"**

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Dear Colleagues,

First of all, allow me to express my gratitude to the organisers of this timely meeting, to the Europe-China Clean Energy Centre and its Management Board, for bringing us all together. It is a special privilege and honour for me to address this distinguished audience.

Energy security, sustainable development and prospects for global energy governance are very important topics to elaborate; all three of them are closely interconnected.

Every country has its own considerations regarding **national energy security**. It is quite understandable, since without energy security there is no sustainable energy development, no national prosperity and no national security.

Energy security incorporates a number of elements:

- security of supply and demand;
- security of transit;
- environmental sustainability;
- safe technologies.

In order to guarantee national energy security each and every country focuses its national energy policies on the following areas:

- establishment of open, transparent, efficient and competitive energy markets in their countries, including transparent and efficient legal and regulatory frameworks;
- facilitation of necessary investments into the energy sector;
- promotion of energy efficiency and investments into renewable energy sources.

We are living in the time of rapid changes in our environment. All nations are much more interconnected and no nation is capable of developing in an isolated manner. **The globalisation of the world strongly influences energy developments**. In order to benefit from these global trends we need to develop multilateral, mutually beneficial cooperation, search for win-win solutions, avoid zero-sum games.

The new General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Xi Jinping recently called for close international cooperation to address global issues. He named the international community of today a community of common destiny and stressed that no country can go it alone or outshine others. It is important to establish a more equal and balanced global development partnership.

This approach is essential to developing **international cooperation in energy**. We should look for the principles which will unite us and promote global energy security. We should

work together on establishing fair, competitive and efficient global energy governance, which will ensure sustainable development for all.

Some important areas of international energy cooperation, which can be developed in the interest of all, are the following:

- exchange of best practices;
- research and development;
- emergency preparedness and crisis response;
- safe and secure energy markets and infrastructure;
- promotion of investments.

The United Nations, G-8 and G-20 are guiding the international community in these efforts. A number of international organisations are tackling different aspects of multilateral energy cooperation. Leaders of producing and consuming states have proposed important initiatives directed at better international cooperation in energy.

The Energy Charter is one of these international energy organisations. It possesses a number of assets which puts it in a good position to provide an important contribution to the discussion on global energy security and governance.

The Energy Charter covers key aspects of international energy relations: investment, trade, transit and promotion of energy efficiency. It sets efficient standards, promotes open and efficient markets, is based upon mutual benefits, and provides dispute resolution mechanisms. The Energy Charter does not dictate any specific strict models for the development of national energy sectors. It is inclusive: among its members are developed as well as developing countries; consumers, producers, as well as transit countries. The Charter is non-discriminatory among its participants. Our organisation does not have specific geographic limitations. And last but not least, it respects sovereignty over national resources.

Taking into account the rapid changes in the world since the inception of the Energy Charter, in 2009 its members initiated **the modernisation of the Energy Charter Process**. The objectives of this modernisation include the incorporation of new developments in the Charter Process, the consolidation of cooperation among the existing members and engaging new countries, which are strongly influencing energy developments in the world. At the 23rd Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference in November, Charter members made a very important decision, which constitutes a very practical step along the road of modernisation. The mandate was given to start the work on updating the 1991 Energy Charter. We strongly believe that through this work it will be possible to cooperate productively with the Charter observers and other interested countries.

China is of course is a very important observer to the Energy Charter Conference since 2001. We benefited strongly from our cooperation with China and invite China to participate actively in our joint work on the updated version of the 1991 Energy Charter. We are eager to share our expertise with our Chinese partners and looking forward to opportunities to learn more from China. A strong and equal partnership between the Energy Charter and China is essential for the promotion of constructive and efficient multilateral cooperation on the issues of energy security and global energy governance.

Thank you.