

Address of the Chairman of the Energy Charter Conference
H.E. Yagshgeldi Kakayev, Vice Prime Minister of Turkmenistan

Address made by Secretary General Urban Rusnák on behalf of Vice Prime Minister Yagshgeldi Kakayev

Abuja, Nigeria, 7 March 2017

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As is well-known, according to the decision of the 27th session of Energy Charter Conference held in Tokyo, on the 1st of January 2017 Turkmenistan assumed the Chairmanship of the Energy Charter Conference.

Recognizing existing energy challenges and arising opportunities, Turkmenistan has put forward a number of international initiatives to contribute to the global energy dialogue and strengthen international energy cooperation. Being one of the largest natural gas producers in the world, Turkmenistan considers global energy cooperation and dialogue on energy security to be a high priority for the sake of stability and peace.

Assuming the Chairmanship in the Energy Charter Conference in 2017, Turkmenistan adopted the Concept of the Chairmanship focusing on the following priority areas:

- Diversification of energy supply sources and routes as a guarantee for global energy security;
- The role of energy efficiency, energy saving and innovative technologies as part of the international energy dialogue and knowledge exchange;
- Promotion and integration of renewable energy sources to encourage sustainable development;
- Reliability and stability of intentional energy transit flows to balance the interests of producing, consuming and transit countries;
- Promotion and protection of energy investments to ensure a sustainable future;
- Jointly elaborated declaration as an outcome of the 28th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference.

President of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov at the recent meeting with the Energy Charter Secretary General H.E. Dr. Urban Rusnák in Ashgabat stressed the importance of the international energy partnership as a determining factor for strengthening sustainable development, peace and stability and also exchanged views on priorities for joint activities under the Chairmanship of Turkmenistan in 2017.

Amongst them Turkmenistan has made the Expansion and Outreach of the IEC as one of its main priorities for during its Chairmanship. Turkmenistan strongly believes that by signing the IEC, countries may have opportunity to actively engage with the Energy Charter constituency and address contemporary energy challenges the country may face.

Chairing the Energy Charter Conference Turkmenistan commends the decision of Nigeria to sign the International Energy Charter and notes that the International Energy Charter reflects some of the most topical energy challenges of the 21st century, in particular:

- the full scope of multilateral documents and agreements on energy;
- the growing weight of developing countries for global energy security;
- the role of enhanced energy trade for sustainable development;
- the need for diversification of energy sources and routes;
- the role of regional integration of energy markets.

Turkmenistan is convinced that by signing the IEC Nigeria will enjoy mutually beneficial energy cooperation among nations for the sake of energy security and sustainability.

Turkmenistan is determined to actively collaborate with the Energy Charter Secretariat to continue its endeavors to promote the principles of the Energy Charter meeting with Ministers, Ambassadors, Government Dignitaries to outline the essential role and future potential of the Energy Charter Treaty and the International Energy Charter.

In conclusion, I would like to wish a success to the today's ceremony and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.