

Speech by H.E. Mr. KODAMA Kazuo,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the European Union
at the Ministerial Session of the 30th Meeting of the Energy Charter Conference
on 11 December, 2019

Your Excellency Mr. Ilir Bejtja, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania,
Dr. Urban Rusnák, Secretary General of the Energy Charter Secretariat,
Honourable Ministers, Distinguished Heads of International Organisations,
Ambassadors, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, on behalf of the Government of Japan, I would like to express my condolences to the victims of the earthquakes in the Republic of Albania on 26th November and after. The Government of Japan decided to provide emergency assistance from a humanitarian point of view as well as in light of the friendly relationship between Japan and the Republic of Albania. As a highly seismic country, Japan prays for the reconstruction of Albania as soon as possible.

From now on, let me introduce Japan's ideas, based on our experience during our G20 Presidency, regarding the subject of this session: The Improvement of Investment Climate Aimed at Achieving Socio-Economic, Environmental and Energy related Targets.

Firstly, as a domestic long-term energy target, the Government of Japan set out its fifth Strategic Energy Plan last July. Based on the principle of 3E+S, the plan sets out the guidelines establishing an energy supply-demand structure which is stable, minimises the economic impact on society and adapts to the environment.

Secondly, taking this into account, Japan set out a Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement. The ultimate goal of the strategy is to achieve a decarbonized society and it explores every means to accomplish this. Among them, promoting disruptive innovation by maximum utilization of the power of business, rather than extending conventional efforts, is imperative.

Lastly, also relying on the developments of the discussions, as the chair of the G20, Japan stressed the importance of the concept of a "virtuous circle for environment and economy" at the G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth, which was held in Karuizawa, in June. In its Communiqué, the importance of leading energy transitions was recognized and G20 Energy Ministers stressed the need to increase investments in cleaner technologies, cooperation in energy efficiency, the deployment of renewables and the promotion of energy innovation in line with the spirit of the 2030 Agenda

for Sustainable Development, recognizing that fossil fuels still play a major role in the energy transitions.

Mr. Chairman,

Japan considers it indispensable for human beings to pursue every option in line with the concept of “All Fuels and All Technologies” in order to achieve energy transitions and address key global challenges. Japan also believes that it is important for governments to promote energy technology and innovation and to improve the investment climate under the government's initiative.

Therefore, we incorporated the importance of this in the G20 Communiqué, and organised conferences in September on LNG, Hydrogen Energy and Carbon Recycling in which Japan will demonstrate leadership towards energy transitions and decarbonisation. Japan and the representatives of interested countries, regions and institutions share our view on the challenges, and we are continuing concrete discussions.

As investment for energy transitions is expected to increase in the future, the role of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT), which provides a legal basis for improving the investment environment, will be more important than ever.

Therefore, Japan considers it essential that the activities of the Energy Charter Conference and the Energy Charter Secretariat are carried out appropriately in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the ECT. To this end, Japan, together with the EU and Kazakhstan, contributed to the review under Article 34.7 of the ECT, as a coordinator. Japan welcomes the adoption of the conclusions of the Review under the name of the Energy Charter Conference, and strongly hopes that the conclusions of the review will be certainly implemented from now on.

Japan also welcomes the start of the negotiation for the modernization of the ECT this afternoon, which reached a consensus at this Charter Conference. Japan will actively engage in the discussion, taking the stance that it is important to progress in energy transitions, and keep or improve the level of investment protection.

Japan will continue to contribute to ensure that the ECT remains relevant during this period of energy transitions.

Thank you for your attention. (695 words)