

High Level Dialogue on Energy

24 September 2021

Minister Eamon Ryan, Minister for Transport and Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications

Biography available [here](#)

Transcript

Hello, Eamon Ryan is my name, Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport in the Irish government, with particular responsibility for our energy policy, which is why I'm proud to be taking part in this high level event at the UN on energy today.

This follows on from the contribution our Prime Minister, our Taoiseach, made, by, for the first time ever for our country, chairing a session of the UN Security Council where we put the issues of climate and security together.

And I'm also very proud that our President was able to take part this week in the Food Systems Summit, as part of the UN General Assembly, showing that there too we have to change our entire systems to protect our people, protect our planet.

It's the same in energy.

In Europe, we have a very detailed plan, the "Fit for 55" package for climate change, which will transform the whole energy system.

It's built around renewable power and energy efficiency being the new industrial clean energy revolutions of our time, which will give us greater security, which will help tackle climate change, and which will create jobs and employment and prosperity for our people into the future.

It's a Green Deal strategy for Europe, which is at the centre of our entire economic strategy and one which in Ireland we are looking to lead on and show real expertise and talent and capability in.

One of the advantages of this switch, of this change to renewable power and energy efficiency is that it can belong to everyone. We have wind, or solar power, or biomass, or hydro, or a whole variety of different renewable solutions in every different part of the world.

And often it can be accessible for smaller areas with less investment capability where we can actually achieve the key sustainable development goals, the development we need, which is to provide access to power and through that employment and other security for people right across the world.

In Ireland, we have recognised the importance of that in a lot of the funding we give in our overseas development aid, which is in the area of climate security and adaptation, building up resilience in developing countries across the world so they too can see themselves meet all the other sustainable development goals as we come out of poverty.

I think this event this week is hugely important because we go to Glasgow now in November looking to seek agreement, working together in solidarity to deliver on the Paris Climate Agreement.

We have to ratchet up our contributions and on that basis, Ireland has agreed to cut our emissions in half in the next decade, and like many other countries now to go net zero in 2050.

At the heart of this has to be this change in the energy system, moving away from the use of fossil fuels, going with this new industrial development revolution, where we balance renewable power with flexible demand.

It's something that's going to be a huge challenge, but it's one that we're up to.

And we believe that the United Nations framework, through the UNFCCC, through the IPCC scientific advice, and through sharing of best practice and experience is the way to go, is why this event today is so important.

I'm very glad to take part and for Ireland to have made its contribution this week in a variety of different ways.