



ADDRESS

BY

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
ZIMBABWE, HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. E. D. MNANGAGWA**

AT THE

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE
ON ENERGY**

24 SEPTEMBER 2021

**Your Excellency Abdullah Shahid, President of the
76th Session of the General Assembly,**

**Your Excellency António Guterres, Secretary
General of the United Nations,**

Majesties,

Excellencies, Heads of State and Government.

It is my honour and privilege to be part of this High Level Dialogue on energy which relates to SDG 7. We meet against the backdrop of the unprecedented global emergency brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. While the focus remains on saving lives, livelihoods and rebuilding economies, recovery measures must equally prioritize the establishment of a more resilient and sustainable global economy. To this end, equitable access to renewable energy is a key enabler.

Sustainable Development Goal 7 is a key aspect of UN Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Paris Agreement. The goal is also intricately linked to climate, poverty eradication, zero hunger, health and

social wellbeing, education and indeed all the other SDGs with regards to achieving transformative sustainable development.

It is therefore most unfortunate that we continue to witness climate crisis. The need to scale up the implementation of action plans towards reducing global emissions in line with our aspirations for affordable and clean energy, remains imperative.

Zimbabwe launched a National Renewable Energy Policy, in a bid to increase access to clean and affordable energy and to achieve clear targets for renewable energy, based on the Nationally Determined Contributions, as well as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. My Government is targeting to effectively harness its renewable energy potential, improve installed power generation capacity, diversify the domestic energy sector, and boost national energy security. In support of this thrust, my Government has availed fiscal incentives to promote investment in the energy sector.

The energy and power sector has been liberalized, resulting in an increased number of Independent Power Producers and private sector participation in the green economy. These initiatives are improving the share of renewable energy in the energy mix. The effects of climate change, enhancement of community development as well as the involvement of women and youth in the economy are also being addressed concurrently.

Power generation and transmission, untapped natural gas and renewable resources in my country present abundant business and investment opportunities. We stand ready therefore to welcome new investments in these and other areas to diversify our domestic energy sector, and to boost country-wide energy security.

Excellencies,

The transition from coal to renewable energy sources remains critical to the achievement of the set emission reduction targets.

Concerted efforts to support, finance, equip and enable energy transition will be required, to allow developing countries to move away from fossil fuels in the next decade. Accelerating progress through international solidarity and collaboration will undoubtedly advance sustainable industrial development and also help alleviate multiple socio-economic challenges.

As we share ideas and experiences at this High-Level Dialogue, sustained and robust action must ensure the realisation of our global expectations. Only then will we live up to our noble quest of “not leaving anyone behind”.

I thank you.