INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

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CSTD 2017-18 priority theme on 'The role of science, technology and innovation to increase substantially the share of renewable energy by 2030'

Statement submitted by

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Intervention

by Jan Dusik, Europe Office Director, UN Environment
in the session of Commission on Science and Technology for Development devoted to the role of science, technology and innovation to increase substantially the share of renewable energy by 2030,
Geneva, 6 November2017

What we need

Paris agreement – 1.5 degrees up to 2 degrees, Bonn COP-23 starts today

Emission Gap Report 2017 – 11-13.5 Gt CO2e gap, on pathway to over 3 degrees – need to go beyond Paris pledges; good news is that it is already happening, albeit too slow

Other climate forcers – Kigali amendment on HFCs phaseout, black carbon and methane -Climate Clean Air Coalition

We can catch up with right techonologies and engagement of partners, but must act now. Need to invest in technology – we could save up to 36 GtCO2e / year by 2030. Much potential in solar, wind, energy efficiency in appliances and cars and in reforestation – 22 GtCO2e. One Gigaton report – if climate financing pledges implemented and with right technology transfer, developing countries can cut 1.4 GtCO2e by 2020.

Health, jobs, local economy, sustainable development

Where we stand

176 countries have renewable energy targets, 81 programmes combining renewable energy and energy efficiency; auctions expanding and bringing prices down

Policy support in transport – energy efficiency, modal switch, modern biofuels

Renewables prices fall – growth in production albeit reducing investment – 10% less cost of MW of solar or wind 2016, 23 per cent less investment but 9 percent higher installed renewables capacity

Subsidising renewables no longer an issue – they can be as low as 30 USD/MWh

Decoupling from economic growth – 3.1% growth but stable GHG emissions – thanks to largely switch to renewables

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Where we need to go

Systems approach: Renewables together with energy efficiency and energy access; from power generation to transport and heating and cooling, integrated coupling. From policy instruments to policy strategies (long term vision accompanying finance availability and technology). Across sectors and departments. Accompanying infrastructure.

Cannot afford to use fossil fuels available – China withdrawing from coal, stranded assets

Good inclusion of decentralized renewables – combined with grid infrastructure (including transboundary) and removing fossil fuel subsidies; focus on dispatchable renewable energy (more flexibility)

Major players:

Cities – Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy – 7200 communities, 225 million citizens, ability to cut emissions by 40% by 2030

Emerging economies – costs decrease, more efficient

Corporations – 100% renewables commitments – Google, Facebook; spurs investment in new renewable energy projects