Statement by Mr. Alireza JEYRANI HOKMABAD, Minister Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Geneva at the 10th session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting (MYEM) on Trade, Services and Development

Agenda item 3: "The role of trade and services for enhancing science, technology and innovation to promote a fair transition to sustainable energy".

10-12 July 2023

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Mr. Chairman Excellencies Distinguished delegates,

Mr. Chairman,

At the very outset allow me to thank the panelists for their insightful presentation as well as the UNCTAD secretariat for convening this timely meeting.

Trade and services play a crucial role in enhancing science, technology, and innovation (STI) for promoting a fair transition to sustainable energy, especially from a developing country perspective. Technology transfer, particularly from developed to developing countries, and through North-South cooperation, is a key aspect of this process. Let me shed some more light on the issue in question:

- Technology Transfer: Developing countries often face challenges in accessing and adopting advanced technologies required for transitioning to sustainable energy. Technology transfer involves the dissemination and adoption of environmentally friendly technologies, expertise, and know-how from developed to developing countries. This transfer can occur through various channels, including trade, foreign direct investment, licensing agreements, and partnerships.

- **Knowledge Sharing**: Trade and services facilitate knowledge sharing between countries. Developed countries possess advanced scientific knowledge and technical expertise in sustainable energy technologies. Through trade in goods and services, developing countries can gain access to this knowledge, which can be utilized to enhance their own STI capabilities. Collaboration and partnerships between institutions and experts from different countries can also foster knowledge exchange and learning.

Mr. Chairman,

- Capacity Building: Trade and services provide opportunities for capacity building in developing countries. Access to advanced technologies through trade can enable developing countries to build their scientific and technical capacities. This involves training local researchers, engineers, and technicians to understand, operate, and maintain sustainable energy technologies. Capacity building helps developing countries develop their own STI capabilities and fosters innovation and adaptation to local contexts.
- Investment and Financing: Trade and services can attract investment and financing for sustainable energy projects in developing countries. Developed countries often have financial resources and investment expertise that can be channeled towards clean energy projects in developing nations. Foreign direct investment, trade-related investments, and access to climate funds can support the deployment of sustainable energy technologies and infrastructure, promoting the fair transition to sustainable energy.

Mr. Chairman,

- Policy and Regulatory Support: Trade can also contribute to the development of supportive policy and regulatory frameworks. International trade agreements and collaborations can foster the transfer of sustainable energy technologies by promoting intellectual property rights protection, reducing trade barriers, and providing incentives for technology transfer. Policy coherence and coordination at the national and international levels are essential to create an enabling environment for STI, ensuring a fair and equitable transition to sustainable energy.

- North-South Cooperation: North-South cooperation is vital for promoting technology transfer and enhancing STI in developing countries. Developed countries can actively support developing nations in their transition to sustainable energy by providing financial resources, technology, expertise, and capacity-building support. Collaborative initiatives, partnerships, and knowledge-sharing platforms between developed and developing countries can foster a mutually beneficial exchange of ideas and solutions.

Mr. Chairman,

Last but not least, trade and services facilitate the transfer of technology, knowledge sharing, capacity building, investment, and policy support, all of which are essential for enhancing science, technology, and innovation to promote a fair transition to sustainable energy.

North-South cooperation plays a significant role in ensuring that developing countries have access to the necessary resources and expertise to address their unique challenges and opportunities in the pursuit of sustainable energy development.

I thank you