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"International Conference on Bioenergy in Russia"

Introduction + IEA

Good morning and welcome to this "International Conference on Bioenergy in Russia".

My name is Ulrich Benterbusch, I am the Director of Global Energy Dialogue at the International Energy Agency, and it gives me great pleasure to be here with you all today.

For those of you not familiar with the International Energy Agency - The IEA was founded in response to the 1973 oil crisis with an initial role to help countries co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions in oil supply. While energy security continues to be the key aspect of the IEA's work, our concept of what energy security entails has evolved and expanded with its changing context, and as a result the IEA is now at the heart of global dialogue on all forms of energy, providing authoritative and impartial statistics, analysis and recommendations on both energy technology and policy.

Global context

Since the IEA's conception in the 1970s the world's population has doubled. Global economic growth has delivered profound improvements to the living standards of billions, it has brought the interests of far flung countries closer together. But this growth has also created to an ever increasing number of consumers demanding access to energy that is both affordable, reliable, and clean.

As heightened environmental awareness in the minds of both politicians and citizens encourages the decarbonisation of energy supplies, the challenge to satisfy such demand in a sustainable manner is daunting; Not least because growth in energy production is being consistently outstripped by energy demand – particularly in developing economies. The recent publication of our flagship report "*Energy Technology Perspectives 2012"* show energy-related CO2 emissions are at historic highs; Fossil fuels – such as oil, coal and gas – currently provide more than 80% of the world's primary energy supply. And without change to current policies, we estimate that global energy use and CO2 emissions would increase by

a third by 2020, and almost double by 2050. This would likely send global temperatures at least 6°C higher. Such an outcome would confront future generations with significant economic, environmental and energy security hardships. There is no doubt that a major part of the solution to meeting such challenges will rely on the rapid restructuring of our energy systems to support a more sustainable path.

The way forward + Bioenergy

The transition to such a path will require our use of energy to become radically more efficient thus limiting energy demand. This transition will require breakthroughs in the research and development of new low carbon technologies making them both more efficient and affordable. Successfully tackling today's energy challenges will require more than just the isolated address of the individual elements or technologies that make up our energy systems. In future, we need to overhaul the policymaker's approach to energy system design, we need an integrated approach. Underlying, underpinning and connecting both the demand and supply side of our energy system we need smarter grids, and solutions which efficiently overlay the power, heat, and transport sectors.

In this context, and across multiple sectors, there can be no doubt that Bionenergy can play a leading role. Today, Bioenergy is the single largest renewable energy source, providing 10% of global primary energy supply. In future, the IEA envisages strong increases in the application of bioenergy technologies to the global heat and power sectors. It has the potential to supply over 7.5% of the world's electricity needs by 2050, as well significantly contribute to decarbonising energy intensive industry processes. Bionenergy CAN play a leading role globally, but there is an urgent need for focused international collaboration to turn promise into reality. Delivering success both internationally, as well as here in Russia, strong and balanced policy efforts are needed to create a stable investment environment and allow commercialisation of new bioenergy conversion technologies, efficiency improvements, and further cost reductions along the whole supply chain. Internationally aligned sustainability requirements will be vital to ensure that production and use of bioenergy heat and power provide the envisaged emission reductions, and have a positive impact on socio-economic development and the environment.

International collaboration + IEA Technology Platform

And so it is that just as our energy systems will require greater interconnectivity so to optimise the sharing of valuable low carbon energy flows, our governments and industries will need to become more interconnected and mutually supportive. The solutions of the future cannot all be developed, funded, and deployed in disparate fashion. Time is too short, the challenge too long, and the benefits of co-ordinated change too great to ignore.

This importance of international collaboration in delivering shared goals is clear, and was central to IEA and G8 minister's decision in 2009 to establish the International Low Carbon Energy Technology Platform, or Technology Platform for short. Launched in October of 2010 under the joint chairmanship of Brazil, Italy, Japan, and Russia, this mechanism brings together international partners from Government, Industry, and fellow international organisations to accelerate shared learning, catalyse commitment to joint action, and support Governments in their development of national and regional energy technology roadmaps. And I would like to highlight that since 2010 Russia has shown continual and consistent support for Technology Platform activities, and for this the IEA is extremely grateful.

Wrap up + Thank you

It is through this IEA Technology Platform that yesterday our energy experts, together with partners Inter-RAO, conducted a training workshop dedicated to sharing IEA methodological on roadmap development with over 30 Russian experts from across a wide technology spectrum, including representatives from Russia's newly formed Technology Platforms. In response to this workshop, and the real progress being made here Russia, the IEA is greatly encouraged by the creation of the Russian Technology Platforms. The bringing together of key stakeholders from government, industry, academia, from across Russia to coordinate and create a vision and roadmap for the development of the key technologies is a vital step towards Russia successfully meeting its ambitious modernisation and innovation goals – and we wish you the very best of luck and our sincere support in developing these initiatives further.

Today the IEA Technology Platform has partnered with the Kurchatov Institute to bring you this International "Conference on Bionenergy in Russia". We are very pleased to

be working alongside such a leading player in the Russian energy sector, and thank you Mr Reutov and his colleagues for all their hard work in providing us with this valuable forum within which to push forward our shared goals. And over the coming days, we look forward to sharing with you the recommendations from our recently published IEA International Technology Roadmap for Bioenergy for Heat and Power, as well as outlining our plans to work with Russian partners to develop a How2Guide for Bionenergy in 2013. We are extremely proud to be here, and to continue to support Russian and international partners strengthen mutual ties and joint activities in the pursuit of shared interests. The coming days provides us with a golden opportunity to work together and bind our shared commitment to deliver co-ordinated action, to meet our challenges head one, and to unlock the undoubted benefits on offer. I am delighted to wish you a successful and fruitful conference and thank you for your kind attention.