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Thank you, Ali-san, for waiting so long, but you will share the great success story about renewable energy in Morocco with us.

Ali ZEROUALI

I would like to talk about the challenges developing countries face in order to have access to energy and speed up the development of renewable energy sources.

To do that, allow me to go back to the 2000s, when growth was steady worldwide at the same time that awareness was rising. It was necessary to adopt sustainable economic development while being concerned about preserving our environment. Brisk economic growth in turn fueled strong demand for energy, putting heavy pressure on existing fossil resources. I remember when the price of oil peaked at \$147 a barrel in July 2008.

This situation put a lot of pressure on economies, especially in the most vulnerable developing countries. By "most vulnerable" I mean countries that have no fossil resources and must find an alternative to them.

Like Morocco, few of these countries want to jeopardize their ambitions and social and economic development goals. Above all, they had to meet the aspirations of their people to wipe out poverty and improve their living standards. At the time, Morocco began to decipher the various trends involving renewable energy and related technologies. Given the huge future investments in R&D, especially in Europe but also China and the United States, we realized that a positive trend was emerging to develop renewable energy and reduce its cost. Thanks to the vision of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Morocco showed courage and boldness in embarking on this path which, in hindsight, proved conclusive, judicious and relevant from every point of view, but which at the time was not entirely obvious.

I will not dwell on Morocco's achievements, since we are all familiar with them, and I think they were discussed last year. This path has allowed us to forecast surpassing the target of 42% by 2020 and 52% by 2030. I am going to focus much more on the current situation and renewable energy's huge potential for regional cooperation and integration.

Today, the paradigm is completely different. It has completely shifted because 10 years ago we faced a stark choice between fossil fuels and renewable energy. fossil fuels had the drawback of being environmentally unsound but cheaper than renewable energy, which had the disadvantage of being economically uncompetitive. So at the time, everybody turned mainly to fossil fuels and interest in renewable energy was lower. Today, renewable energy is a serious economic and environmental alternative to fossil fuels.

Can we imagine going back to fossil fuels for a moment? What would happen? There would be so much pressure on the price of fossil resources that it would jeopardize the already sluggish growth taking place at the moment. Renewable energy differs from fossil fuels in that there is no competition between countries. When the wind blows, it blows for everyone; when the sun shines, it shines for everyone. When these sources remain untapped, everyone loses. The improvement in economic equalization around renewables resulting from rising investment and the ensuing economies of scale means that the more investments there are, the lower prices will be without competition between countries. It is therefore a real vector for cooperation between countries.

Let me give you some specific examples of cooperation initiated by Morocco that have helped to launch a certain momentum. COP 21 generated strong support and mobilization to curb greenhouse gases. Here in Marrakech, COP 22 was intended to be a COP for action. Participating countries and member States had to show ingenuity and



imagination in order to take specific steps and move beyond big words. Among other things, these specific steps had to have a real impact on the development of renewable energy and directly reduce greenhouse gases.

In this context, five countries joined forces at COP 22 in Marrakech to boost the share of renewables in their energy mix by integrating renewable energy markets among themselves. They are France, Germany, Portugal, Spain and Morocco, which launched the Sustainable Electricity Trade Roadmap project. This was followed by a series of cost-benefit analyses that provided these countries with the necessary political comfort. With help from the World Bank, the European Commission and the UfM, the studies demonstrated that at various levels, each country could generate tens of billions in profits by integrating their renewable energy markets. This led to the signing of a new declaration at the European Commission last December for the integration of the first Cross Border Green Corporate PPA market. I was in Madrid last week where the final discussions on an agreement between the five countries were almost finalized. This is very important news. It will allow renewable energy to be developed on a massive scale since the more the size of the networks and trade between countries expands, the more the share of renewables in the energy mix can grow.

Finally, one last action is also very important. I agree with Mr. Masuda, since we also had to stop making big unproductive speeches. During Climate Action Day on 23 September 2019, my president, Mustapha Bakkoury, and the presidents of Bhutan, Malawi and Ethiopia and the chairman of the ADB, launched a new initiative to benefit the least developed countries and small island states, which aims to hasten access to sustainable energy in these countries.

Early next year, a major event will mark the actual launch of this initiative, which, I would remind you, has been selected from among more than 150 proposals made to the General Secretariat to be presented on September 23rd and is already supported by more than 80 countries and institutions. This will be marked by the launch of support for an initial list of about 10 countries for the development of RE capacities, mainly in Africa, and the development of a skills center for sharing expertise and capacity-building.

I would like to close with one last point. Deep down, we are convinced that renewable energy is a real vehicle of political and economic cooperation. How many wars started because of the scarcity of resources and competition between countries trying to secure them? Political cooperation on renewable energy is based on the fact that no country can profit from another country's resources. The lack of competition around renewable energy gives political cooperation its full meaning.

With respect to economic cooperation, for the first time, the least-developed countries have a chance to overcome their shortcomings with regard to fossil fuels. How many countries used to export their crude oil and import refined oil or fuel? Thanks to renewable energy, it is impossible to do so today. Processing and the added industrial value it brings must be localized. They cannot be localized outside the country where the primary resources exist, which will inevitably generate investment and job creation in that country. That is why we talk about economic cooperation.

Thanks to the impetus given by His Majesty, mainly in Africa, the meaning of the African saying "If you want to walk fast, walk alone, and if you want to walk far, walk together" takes on its full meaning. Today, that is the comprehensive policy initiated by Morocco through MASEN to develop political and economic cooperation on renewable energy.

Nobuo TANAKA

Thank you very much, Ali-san.

The renewable energy project in Morocco represents a great transformation of the energy system in this area. In particular, the regional integration of the grid line is a very interesting example, and is probably a model for North-East Asia. That is my argument. There is Japan, Korea, and China, particularly between China and Japan, we have a serious problem, a political dispute, which is getting to a very critical level. However, if we have a power-line grid connection with Korea, China and Russia, economic cooperation and collaboration may lead us eventually towards peace. Europe is not as peaceful as before, but we may move into that kind of integration in the future. I really wish you a great success.