

Your Excellences,

It is with great honour that I speak here today at the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy. This Dialogue is very timely as the energy sector is facing **the urgent need for ambitious transition** to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. In addition, we are coming together to work towards **meeting the Sustainable Development Goal Seven (7)** of Ensuring Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All.

Thank you to the UN for nominating Finland as one of the Global Champions in this dialogue.

We all agree net zero economy cannot be achieved without mainstreaming clean energy. To achieve this, we need bold action but it is not enough. We also need to develop and rapidly scale up new technologies and skills, including digitalisation.

Finland has acted with determination to fight climate change. At national level, we aim to be climate neutral by 2035. In 2019, the share of renewables in Finland was at 43 per cent. I hope that Finland can inspire others to take ambitious determined steps to accelerate this transition.

In many developing countries the energy sector is still developing, which provides us a great opportunity to build an energy system that is clean. We need to jointly, together with all actors, commit to investing in clean energy especially in these contexts. We should not accept the premise that there is a trade off between clean energy and increasing energy access. Both are essential, and both are possible if we put out best

technology and innovation to use and design smart and clean energy systems.