Question 1 (4 minutes to respond)

You were one of the key architects behind the Paris agreement which successful implementation is dependent on the achievement of SDG7. IRENA analysis shows that renewable energy and energy efficiency can provide over 90% of the energy-related CO2 emissions reduction required to keep temperature rise to well below 2°C. ***In your view, how can we ensure that the momentum to tackle climate change and to implement NDCs goes in tandem with higher level of ambitions for renewable deployment? What do you see are the greatest opportunities and challenges in the years to come?***

- **Energy** is a key component of greenhouse gas emissions – roughly **70% of emissions** at the global level.
- In 2017, global energy-related emissions **increased by 1.4**% - the first increase in years.
- SDG7 and the Paris Agreement are **interconnected** and **mutually supportive** goals:
    - Renewable and clean energy for all is essential for staying well-below 2°C.
    - Paris implementation can support increased ambition for SDGs, which are **not 1.5°C compliant**.
- Reaching our global objectives will require the decarbonisation of the power sector.
- Renewables are making major progress around the world.
- Countries are showing ambition:
    - **China** and **India** have massively increased their renewable capacity.
    - 17 countries generated more than 90% of their electricity with renewable sources in 2017
- This is the right direction – but we need to encourage **countries, cities, businesses** to go for **100%** renewables.
    - 100% will be **tough** – but it's an opportunity to **over-achieve SDG7**
- This transition towards renewables reflects several shifts in recent years:
    - Renewables are now perceived as a source of greater **security**.
        - They can act as **protection against oil shocks**.
    - The **cost** of renewable electricity is falling so quickly that it will be soon be **consistently less expensive** than fossil fuel-generated electricity.
        - The next round of NDCs will feature higher targets for renewables because renewables **make economic sense**.
    - There is no longer any doubt about the **viability** of these technologies.
- The transformation is underway – for the last stretch several challenges:
    - **Integrating** renewables into **existing systems** and grids and bringing them to **scale** are will be major difficulties.
    - Decarbonizing the **transport** sector will also be a challenge and will require major breakthroughs.
        - Shifts are already happening – **France** has put in place the target to **phase out** cars that run on **internal-combustion** engines by **2040**.
    - To complement this, **investors** must stop funding fossil fuel and shift towards massive renewable development:
        - For the **energy sector** – including power, buildings, and transportation, investments may need to be in the range of **$1 trillion** a year until 2050.
- There are **no one-size-fits-all** solutions to these challenges – each country must find solutions that are **tailored** and appropriate for their **specific context**.

Question 2 (3 minutes to respond)

There have been the establishment or amendments to several major international agreements - IMO, ICAO, PA, Montreal and SDGs. **In this context, what are the tools that help ensure consistency between these goals and SDG7?**

- Both the SDGs and the Paris Agreement are being implemented in many countries – yet they are often being **implemented in silos**:
    - The **overlaps** between these two objectives is particularly clear in SDG7.
    - Efforts to decarbonize the economy and fulfil the 2030 goals must be approached and viewed as part of an **integrated** and **coherent** whole.
- **Long-term strategies** are the best tool to ensure consistency and build up effective **institutional capacity** though:
    - Better planning:
        - Long-term strategies are tools to articulate **domestic visions for development**. They give **a direction of travel.**
        - They can provide a conceptual framework of development options that illustrate the **boundaries and trade-offs** and **compare alternative solutions.**
        - They shape **near-term policy** and **investment decisions**.
    - Efficient use of institutional capacities:
        - Integrated long-term planning can **reduce the risk** of doubling efforts.
        - Example of **Spain**: the new government has decided to create a **unified** energy and environment ministry to ensure **coordinated** policies and **consolidate** institutional capacity.
- The development of long-term strategies should be part of an **inclusive process**.
    - Economic stakeholders, civil society, governments of all levels can b**uild a consensus** on a shared vision of the **society they want**.
- Long-term planning played a particularly important role in supporting the **economic and technological viability of renewables.**
    - Countries that today have a high renewable capacity – such as Denmark - **prepared** their grid infrastructure for the integration of renewables.
        - Sharing a **common vision** and sending a **signal** about future markets and clear **incentives** helped bring down costs.