



Safe for life climate in future!

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Statement of Ukrainian Climate Network on national climate policy

1. The government must make an official statement about review of contribution to Paris agreement (nationally determined contribution, NDC) in year 2019.

Paris agreement means that Ukraine's NDC has to result in holding the rise of world temperature much less than 2 (1,5) degrees. NDC, applied by Ukraine in 2015 indicates that until 2030 emissions are held on the level of 60% of year 1990. Yet in 2016 emissions already made up 36% of year 1990. It is impossible to hold the rise of world temperature without abridging GHG emissions, so Ukraine's NDC must not be over 36% of year 1990. The strategy of low-carbon development of Ukraine and Energy Strategy 2035 give chances to slacken emissions. Ukraine's domestic policy already has objectives more ambitious than stated on international level. Seventy-one Ukrainian city have assumed a liability to reduce emissions, they presented Sustainable Energy Development Action Plans within an international initiative, the Covenant of Mayors. The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development together with GIZ give support to government in reviewing NDC in the nearest time. This is why climate negotiations in Katowice is a chance to state about making such national contribution which would result in reduction, not increase of emissions.

2. Ukraine has to make a just transition to a 100% renewable energy until 2050.

Achieving the objectives of Paris agreement is possible only in case of refusal from fossil fuel until 2050. In 2018 four Ukrainian cities, Lviv, Zhytomyr, Kamyanets'-Podil's'ky and Chortkiv stated about transition to 100 % RES. We are sure that a number of cities does the same during 2019. The government has to react on desire of communities to move to renewables and initiate the design of energy transition plan for Ukraine. Renewable energy sector will not only increase energy security and independence thanks to smaller amounts of energy resources imported but also promote economics growth, smoothen social inequality, higher standards of living and lower GHG emissions. Refusal from traditional energy as an ambitious objective until 2050 and transition to RES will also promote fulfilling Ukraine's numerous international liabilities within Association Agreement, membership in the European Energy Community and ratification of the Paris agreement. The transition is economically and technically possible, this is confirmed by researches of Ukrainian and international organizations. Please mind that the world community does not consider nuclear energy a part of decision – a part of a problem rather since it is unable to reduce emissions quickly, profitably and safely. The constructing of only one energy unit of nuclear station costs over 6 billion euros, lasts over ten years and generates problems: radioactive wastes, huge amounts of water to cool the station and risk of disasters. On the contrary, renewables, especially solar and wind power show tremendous growth of powers together with constant decrease of their price and have enormous economical potential. Nevertheless, implementation of transition to 100% RES must go on in concordance with nature protection measures and principles of sustainable development.

3. The objects of renewable energy must have ground on the principle of sustainability

Paris agreement defines principles of sustainable development as compulsory for all the events concerning climate, of both preventive and adjustive nature. This means implementing RES, that is hydro- and solar power stations etc. Because of poor institutions and lack of specialists it is hard to keep to the principle of sustainability in Ukraine while developing RES. For example, when hydropower station is constructed its potential impact on water ecosystems is inspected insufficiently. As a result, hydropower stations cause dessication of reservoirs, worse spawning and lower quality of water. Implementation of an activity concerning climate change requires estimation of impact on environment. The result of estimation is defining the conditions under which this activity can be implemented. The example of conclusions from estimation of activity concerning river Shopurka in Zakarpats'ka region shows lack of appropriate data in possession of planners as well as publicity and the household subject. That is why these changes remained

behind the scenes. Within the phase of adoption of strategical documents, including The Program of hydropower development until 2026 no strategical ecological estimation was conducted within the context of prevention of climate aftermath because of RES objects implementation. The example of violation of sustainable development principle when constructing RES objects is construction of wind power station in Borzhavy valley included into Emerald network.

4. Include communities into the process of national climate policy

Ukrainian cities voluntarily assume liabilities to slacken the emissions and transition to 100% RES. They involve international investments to energy efficiency and finance from local budgets heat insulation of buildings, implement energy management and optimize public transport. State policy is implemented in communities and must be predictable and understandable for them. First, when updating ODEI one needs to take into account climate objectives of the cities. Second, involve communities to fulfillment of strategical ecological estimation of projects and programs concerning the respective communities.

5. Climate changes must be taken into account in all branches of state policy

The Ministry of environment is responsible for national policy concerning climate changes, yet climate policy is inseparably linked with energy sector and infrastructure. The Ministry of environment does not have the powers to form energy or infrastructural policy – these issues are within the competence of respective ministries. Climate change is closely connected with all the rest of state's social relation spheres. For example, wastes management, cars uncleared by the customs and not complying standard Euro-5 (including the so called europlates), development of animal husbandry and deforestation influence the GHG emissions. Despite that strategical ecological estimation demands taking into account the climate aftermath, there is no procedure of taking into account the problem of climate change and providing conditions for slackening GHG emissions while elaborating national strategies and programs. The units of state authorities do not practically cooperate with each other in this sphere.

To reconcile policies with each other for the sake of struggling climate changes the government must design integrated national plan on energy and climate until 2030, according to guidelines of Energy Community. Also there is a need to increase consequence of Interdepartmental commission on fulfillment of Frame convention of the UN on climate change, by having included into the renewed cast the officials of superior level of ministries and departments. The commission must be led by one of vice prime ministers in order to be able to integrate issues of climate change in agendas of all the ministries.

6. The Ministry of Education has to initiate and promote education and enlightening on climate change

Despite the efforts of publicity and government climate changes priority is poorly understandable for average citizen whether he is a farmer, nature study teacher, village council head, deputy, official or an entrepreneur. This is proved by a year-long implementation of Environmental impact assessment. Its reports must contain description of climate factors. The analysis of reports shows that their authors and expert publicity do not have appropriate knowledge to describe the risks of activity estimated within climate changes. Measures for preventing those risks are not written in conclusions from these reports. Starting from October 12, 2019 takes force the law on Strategic environmental assessment. Thus every single document of state planning has to go through the Environmental impact assessment, with GHG emissions and impact on climate included. Ukraine does not have enough experts able to estimate the risks and design preventive agenda. We need to prepare branch specialists: involve experts from abroad who can share their experience and promote development of domestic specialists, include respective professions in Ukrainian higher education institutions. The Ministry of environment has to take control of quality of these curricula, elaborate methods and instructions for taking climate changes into account while Environmental impact assessment and Strategic environmental assessment.

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