**COMMITTEE:** UNEP

**SUBMITTED BY:** SOUTH KOREA

**AGENDA ITEM:** ENHANCING THE TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AS A RESPONSE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**POSITION PAPER**

 South Korea is a major energy importer, importing nearly all of its oil needs and ranking as the second-largest importer of liquefied natural gas in the world. Electricity generation in the country mainly comes from conventional thermal power, which accounts for more than two thirds of production, and from nuclear power. Energy producers were dominated by government enterprises, although privately operated coal mines and oil refineries also existed. The National Assembly enacted a broad electricity sector restructuring program in 2000, but the restructuring process was halted amid political controversy in 2004 and remains a topic of intense political debate. South Korea has no proven oil reserves. Exploration until the 1980s in the Yellow Sea and on the continental shelf between Korea and Japan did not find any offshore oil. Coal supply in the country is insufficient and of low quality. The potential for hydroelectric power is limited because of high seasonal variations in the weather and the concentration of most of the rainfall in the summer.

As of 2017, South Korean President Moon Jae-in has vowed to end the country’s reliance on coal and also said the nation would move away from nuclear energy. He has taken a major step in that direction in June, saying his country would not try to extend the life of its nuclear plants, would close existing coal-fired plants, and would not build any new coal plants. In recent years, South Korea has set a new direction for its energy sector, with significant decarbonization goals, aiming to raise the share of electricity from renewable sources from 6% in 2019 to 35% by 2030. South Korea attached great importance to nuclear power generation. The country's first nuclear power plant is Kori Number One, located near Pusan ​​and opened in 1977. Eight power plants were in operation in 1987, when atomic energy production was an estimated 71,158 million kilowatts, or 53.1% of the total electrical power. After years of increased policy changes and investments, the country has set ambitious goals and announced major projects. In 2021, President Moon Jae-in announced a planned 8.2GW offshore wind farm that will be the world's largest.

 The [Korean Atomic Energy Research Institute](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KAERI%22%20%5Co%20%22KAERI) (KAERI) is a government-funded research organization. The [Korea Power Engineering Company, Inc.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/KOPEC%22%20%5Co%20%22KOPEC)(KOPEC) engages in design, engineering, procurement and construction of nuclear power plants. The [Korea Institute of Nuclear Safety](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korea_Institute_of_Nuclear_Safety%22%20%5Co%20%22Korea%20Institute%20of%20Nuclear%20Safety) (KINS) functions as the nuclear regulatory body of South Korea. The Korea Atomic Intelligence Agency of Children (KAIAC) is dedicated to more research and development of nuclear power plants. It is also an educational organization that teaches children about power plants and nuclear energy. The South Korean government is open to new projects aimed at solving the increasing global warming and energy-related problems in the world.