

Energy transition is the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy in production and consumption. It is not a homogenous

shift in every part of the world. Fossil fuels are likely to prevail in certain sectors or will still be consumed by the main polluters. The shift from fossil fuels will certainly decrease the demand in oil and natural gas, and thus dependence on their providers for transportation, heating, electricity generation and production.

The international economic system and competition in international trade requires stable and low domestic energy prices per unit production, and renewables (except for hydro) are not suitable candidates to provide the base load in energy supply. Nuclear can be a better option in this regard, but it has high investment costs and public acceptance issues.

What makes the energy transition a feasible option is to reduce dependence on unreliable fossil fuel providers. Populous countries like China and India already took steps to invest in and to use more of renewable energies, along with their ongoing policy of securing overseas fossil fuel long-term contracts with producers.

Opting for renewable energies like wind and solar is an important step but not the silver bullet to reach the goals of decarbonization to address global warming and climate change. The geopolitical challenge still rests with the clash of great power interests in strategic production areas and transportation routes.

Dr. Şebnem Udum Hacettepe University June 30th, 2023