

GLOBAL PROSPECTS OF CO2 EMISSIONS IN POWER GENERATION AND CARBON MITIGATION ROLE OF NATURAL GAS

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Presentation's structure

Power-related CO2 emissions: recent evolutions and main drivers

Long-term power sector prospects: Electricity demand and supply

Future of power-related CO2 emissions and role of natural gas



# Recent evolution of CO2 emissions: a key role of power generation in shaping the global emission's trajectory



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- Global emissions recovered with growth in 2017 after three consecutive years of relative stabilization.
- Power generation was a key contributor in this shaping this trajectory. Emission from power sector increased by 1,75% in 2017.

## Power sector has a large potential to mitigate CO2 emissions



#### Power generation mitigation potential is driven by:

- Dominance of coal as the most carbon-intensive fuel.
- Existence of large spectrum of proven and competitive technologies to produce electricity with less carbon emissions.
- Increasing role of electricity in final energy consumption.
- Orientation to implement policy measures and initiatives targeting the power sector.



### Power-related emissions drivers: Decomposition analysis



# Increase of power generation largely drives emissions' growth. But strong mitigating effect of renewables, efficiency and substitution



Substitution between fossil fuels (especially penetration of natural gas against coal) played a role in compensating the upside effect of power generation activity on global emissions.



# Significant difference in the contribution of different drivers between countries and regions: the US and Chinese cases

#### Contribution of various factors in driving power-related CO2 emissions' change between 2012 and 2017 (MTCO2) 1100 1100 The US **CHINA** 1000 1000 Power-related emissions decreased by around 900 Power-related emissions increased by 900 270 MtCO2 more than 800 MtCO2 800 800 • Key mitigating role of gas to coal substitution Large upside effect of generation activity, 700 700 (Second driver after renewables). contrasting with the American case. 600 600 Thermal efficiency had an upside effect on Renewables and thermal efficiency improvements were key contributors in emissions: Disparities between American states 500 500 in utilization and decommissioning the lessmitigating emissions 400 400 efficient power plants contributed in decreasing Substitution between fossils played a 300 300 the average thermal efficiency small role 200 200 100 100 0 0 -100 -100 -200 -200 -300 -300 Emission Thermal Fossil fuel Nuclear energy Renewables Power Emission Thermal Fossil fuel Nuclear energy Renewables Power coefficient efficieny of substitution contribution energy generation coefficient efficienv of substitution contribution generation energy factor power plants contribution factor power plants contribution





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## Global power sector prospects\*: Electricity demand







2017-40 Average Annual Growth Rates of

- Electricity demand expected to increase by more than 2/3, driven by non-OECD regions (Particularly, non-OECD Asia which represent around 48% of demand by 2040).
- Despite at much lower pace, electricity demand will continue to grow in OECD regions, supported by economic progress and increased electrification

9 \* All the forecasts are based on the 2018 GECF Global Gas Outlook assumptions on economic, energy price and policy developments in the reference case. These forecasts use the power module of the GECF Global Gas Model



### Global power sector prospects: Power capacities

#### Incremental power capacities by region and source of energy between 2017 and 2040 (MW)



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- Global renewables to increase by 3200 GW, nearly 58% of the 2017-2040 incremental total capacity.
- Gas power capacities will see the second largest increase, with important substitution to coal, especially in North America and OECD Europe

## Global power sector prospects: Electricity generation vs. power capacities

Power capacities (MW)



Global power generation (Twh)



Compared to renewables (excl. hydro and biomass), gas is expected to have higher contribution in power generation despite much less capacities.

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# Power related emissions will observe large slowdown, but still expected to increase, dominated by coal in emerging regions





- Non-OECD Asia is the major contributor in emissions' increase, and would represent around 58% of emissions by 2040.
- Despite large substitution dynamic, emissions from coal-fired plants are expected to grow and to reach 2/3 of the power emissions by 2040.



### Drivers of future global power-related emissions

#### Contribution of various factors in driving power-related CO2 emissions' change between 2017 and 2040 (MTCO2)





- Emissions growth largely supported by expected global increase of power generation activity
- Respectively, renewables, thermal efficiency and substitution between fossils will counterbalance this generation activity effect.
- Nuclear decrease expected to play a small role: Decline in Europe, North America and OECD Asia to be offset by an increase of nuclear in emerging countries (China in particular)

### Drivers of future power-related emissions in OECD regions

## Contribution of various factors in driving power-related CO2 emissions' change between 2017 and 2040 (MTCO2)



### Drivers of future power-related emissions in non-OECD regions

## Contribution of various factors in driving power-related CO2 emissions' change between 2017 and 2040 (MTCO2)



## Conclusion

- Power generation sector will contribute significantly in slowing down global CO2 emissions.
  However, large disparities exist between regions.
- Increase of electricity production to support growing economies and population and rising electrification of final energy usages, is set to play a crucial role in driving emissions' growth in the emerging and developing regions.
- Power generation's increase is still expected to have an effect in developed regions, where electricity demand is anticipated to grow, though at moderate levels.
- Substitution of natural gas to more carbon-intensive fossils is expected to have a significant effect in mitigating CO2 emissions, in addition to thermal efficiency's improvement and renewables development.
- More than this substitution effect, natural gas also plays a role in improving thermal efficiency of power plants and enabling flexibility for the deployment of renewables.



## Thank You!

