## UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** LAW CENTER

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION LAW AND POLICY April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Round-Table Discussion

COVID-19: a Step Towards the Transition to Low-Carbon Economy?

Aubin Nzaou <u>anzaouko@central.uh.edu</u> *University of Houston Law Center*  COVID-19: Source of Uncertainty.

The complexity of the situation.

Uncertainty about future, transitioning forecasts, transitioning enthusiasm and prospects, etc.

Fossil fuel lower prices could increase their post-crisis demand.

Risk of creating a Grey Area (both Fossil and RE).

## COVID-19: a Tremendous Challenge for Transitioning Towards a New Energy Mix

Post-Crisis Situation: States hit by a huge economic crisis, then people and families by a financial turmoil, etc.

Result: Need more time to adapt and adjust to a new normalicy.

Necessity: economic stimulus as an urgency.
Risk: disruption in supply chain, governments unable to provide incentives to RE deployment, decrease of investments in RE, hindrance to solar PV installations, impossibility to reach most of RE 2020 targets (EU, OAS, AU, etc.) and to realize RE, projects (forcecomajeure) rensition to Low-Carbon

Challenge: Good design of economic stimulus packages "ESP" (sustainable approach based on just transition pattern for business, social and environment issues, etc.) or use of fossil fuel as a backup plan.

Actors: Government's ESP in commissioning RE projects extension, supporting energy infrastructure and technology incentives, reducing costs, etc.

Opportunity: maintaining costs of a transition (1% of GDP), supporting RE cheaper technology solutions, fostering renewable electricity (40/50%) as an alternative to fossil fuel (2030), implementing ambitious targets in solar, wind, batteries, EVs, carbon footprint, etc. ⁴

## Thank You!