



Seminar on Supporting Sustainable Development Goal 7, Target 7.1: “By 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services”

21-23 June 2016, Bangkok

Draft Outcome Document

Fully aware that globally more than 1.1 billion people continue to lack access to electricity and 2.9 billion still rely on unsustainable solid biomass as fuel for cooking and heating;

We, participants from 17 countries around the globe and 10 international and regional organizations meeting in Bangkok, Thailand from 21 to 23 June 2016, at the global “Seminar on Supporting Sustainable Development Goal 7, Target 7.1,” organized by UNDESA, UNOSD, ESCWA, and ESCAP, in cooperation with UN-Energy and SE4All;

Having considered the transformative role of energy for sustainable development and its impact on poverty reduction, improved health and education, lower gender disparity, food security and environmental resilience;

Supporting the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, and accelerating the implementation of the 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) towards a more equitable, inclusive and resilient future;

Supporting SDG 7, Target 7.1 call to “**By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services,**” and the three interlinked objectives of the UN Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) Initiative;

Fully aware that rural isolated areas and urban settlements without access to modern energy represent, in many cases, the poorest segment of the population, jeopardizing poverty eradication and livelihood development;

Recognizing that advancing the energy efficiency target and scaling-up the deployment of renewable energy are essential conditions to meet the energy access objective;

Recognizing the potential of the many good practices and enabling factors presented at this seminar in developing coherent policy frameworks for accelerating universal access to modern energy;

Realizing the importance of a nexus approach in achieving universal access to modern energy services;

Cognizant of the upcoming 2016 United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF);

Recommend that:

A. Strengthening monitoring, reviewing, and accelerating SDG Target 7.1 would require:

- Supporting the enhancement of global efforts such as the Global Tracking Framework to incorporate direct dialogue with countries on energy data and indicators in aligning with national development strategies, with active involvement of the UN Regional Commissions ensuring that national and regional perspectives are well reflected in the global agenda;
- Uniting the efforts from national governments, regional, and international organizations, in particular those which are members of UN-Energy and SE4All, under global efforts such as the Global Tracking Framework as to ensure that the energy expert community is consistently using effective common methods, and speaks with a single voice in the monitoring and reporting of SDG 7 and Target 7.1;
- Promoting additional international support to tackle the challenges, barriers, and critical issues affecting the effective monitoring, and reviewing progress on universal energy access in the poorest communities and regions of the world.

B. Assessing appropriate technologies for widening access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services necessitates:

- Promoting a market based approach which reflects local socio-economic and environmental conditions in identifying appropriate technologies. Technology transfer is important, yet it has to be adapted into local contexts;
- Promoting diverse range of energy resource options that are complementary, progressively scalable and allow smooth transition towards clean and renewable energy sources;
- The adoption of appropriate renewable energy technology (RET) in rural, remote and island areas was identified as the most cost-effective solution to provide modern energy services and help develop sustainable local livelihood;
- Fostering environmentally-sound technologies as an important pillar to support the transition towards sustainable development and poverty eradication to avoid long term reliance on obsolete and carbon intensive sources of energy generation;
- Optimizing cost effectiveness of energy access through mini and micro grids, stand-alone, pico-systems, and utility grid extension;
- Supporting an integrated approach to technology transfer, considering additional incentives in supporting the energy value chain;
- Ensuring nationally adopted quality standards in technologies, and setting incentives and drivers for performance;
- Balancing affordability of cookstoves and fuels with emissions, efficiency, durability and user friendliness, engaging end users, in particular women in design and production and distribution of clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels;
- Supporting additional efforts to scale up non-power related energy access products and services that can help meet the full range of household needs, particularly clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels.;
- Acknowledging the utility of SE4All Action Agendas as national umbrella frameworks for energy sector development with a long-term vision, ensuring overall sector-wide coherence and synergy of the accumulated efforts towards SDG 7.

C. Strategies and enabling factors in formulating effective policies in supporting access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services, should consider the following:

- Supporting a sector-wide approach which links household energy access with productive use of energy such as agricultural development, irrigation, and income generation;
- Accepting that energy access may improve the living conditions of people in rural areas but is not a direct link to reducing/eliminating poverty;
- Integrating energy access strategies with local priorities, with a view of leveraging additional local funding, sustaining energy access efforts, and generating public awareness;
- Supporting institutions dedicated to coordination and technical support, building institutional capacity to align interests towards innovative solutions along the entire energy value chain;
- Synergizing the strengths of stakeholder collaboration to streamline planning, implementation, and monitoring with a view to scale-up business models which are financially attractive but without hampering development objectives;
- Acknowledging that one size does not fit all when developing improved cooking technologies. Recognizing the challenges of local users in transitioning from traditional cooking methods to cleaner cooking alternatives, solutions must meet particular user's requirements including availability of resources, family size, and ability to prepare traditional dishes;
- Engaging and empowering local populations, towards strengthening public awareness, local funding capacity and technology retention in widening access to clean cookstoves, fuels and renewable energy technologies;
- Strengthening the energy supply chain when designing energy initiatives supported by national, subnational, and community based data collection.
- Prioritizing interventions that have the largest co-benefits beyond energy access, such as health, environmental, economic, and women's empowerment impacts to enable success across the Sustainable Development Goals.

D. Financing Energy Access and Other Means of Implementation should consider:

- Addressing the challenge of universal access to modern energy services requires scaling up the current investment several fold. This includes unlocking finance and investment by setting long-term visions, creating enabling frameworks, developing solid pipelines of bankable projects and building capacity across the whole value chains;
- Financing mechanisms need to be flexible and to be developed with a capital structure that will allow for the appropriate stacking of capital that is both relevant for each sector depending on its current stage of maturity and accessible by all relevant actors – large and small. Flexibility is necessary for comprehensive efforts and accessibility is required to improve energy access in hard-to-reach communities.
- Acknowledging that investment requirements vary hugely depending on the level of access services (tier 1-5) aimed for by Governments, anywhere between US\$1-52 billion per year globally. As such, there is a need for each country to identify the level that it aspires to, i.e. whether it is sufficient to connect their population to minimum amounts of electricity or whether more advanced levels of energy services should be

aimed for. The SE4All Investment Prospectuses can help countries to mobilize investments into energy access solutions;

- Learning and adapting for investment as we go will be critical for scale-up. Many initiatives and pilot projects have already demonstrated lessons that can be scaled up and employed. New and innovative business models, financing schemes, technologies and partnerships are also emerging rapidly, as the energy sector is undergoing a fundamental transformation globally, and will be more so when the Paris Agreement is operationalized.;
- Promoting pro-poor business models to scale-up the energy access in the rural/isolated areas;
- Intensifying sharing of experiences and best practices as many financing models and enabling frameworks have been tried and examined with detailed accounts of lessons learned.

E. A Nexus Approach to energy access should:

- Recognize the importance of a nexus approach between energy and other development priorities, towards integrating this approach into strategies, programmes, plans, and policies that promote sustainable development;
- Identify specific interlinkages that exist between SDG 7 and other SDGs, such as poverty eradication, food security, urbanization, water, education, health, gender, environment, climate change, and economic growth;
- Acknowledge the different levels in strength of the interlinkages of energy access with other goals from region to region, country to country and areas within countries;
- Define nexus targets and develop appropriate indicators to allow measuring and monitoring of progress and identify the connections and synergies across different indicators;
- Understand the influence that access to energy has on the three dimensions of sustainable development (society, economy and environment) such as environment resilience, water and food security, poverty eradication, education, slums upgrading, youth employment, women's empowerment, health, socio-economic development, among others), which must be integrated while tackling the energy access goal;
- Take integrated and holistic approaches for developing appropriate nexus indicators that can allow proper measuring and monitoring of progress of SDG 7 in relation to the other interrelated SDGs;
- Develop indicators that can help identify synergies across SDGs, measuring capacities of countries for achieving SDGs, and identify optimal plans/pathways, as well as bottlenecks, that may be impeding the implementation of the SDGs at the country level;
- Take the nexus approach to energy access from the global to the regional, national and local level, i.e., localizing SDG 7 by adapting and prioritizing the energy nexus in relation to issues and concerns that are particularly meaningful to the specific contexts;
- Disseminate knowledge on the nexus from the global, down to the micro-level, as a means to develop appropriate strategies, policies, plans, and interventions that can reach and improve the lives of even the most marginalized and vulnerable communities, households and individuals, thus reducing their vulnerability and enhancing their resilience to (and easing their recovery from) shocks, be they living in remote, rural or urban settings.