



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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## 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

*Advances in technologies, rapid cost declines, strategic shifts in policies, new business models and a growing number of best practices are accelerating the transformation of the energy systems in many places and bringing goal 7 within reach. To leave no one behind, we must capitalize on this momentum to mobilize greater political will and cooperation, together with higher levels of public and private investment in a sustainable energy future.*

### SDG 7 remains within reach

**Access to electricity is outpacing population growth in many countries.** From 2000 to 2016, the proportion of the global population with access to electricity increased from 78 per cent to 87 per cent, with the absolute number of people living without electricity dipping to just about 1 billion. In the least developed countries, the proportion of the people with access to electricity more than doubled in this period. Still, too many people continue to lack access.

**Global energy intensity is rapidly declining.** In 2015, it decreased by 2.8 per cent, faster than in any year since 1990 and double the rate of improvement between 1990 and 2010. Meeting the SDG7 energy efficiency

target requires an annual improvement of 2.7 per cent until 2030 going forward.

**The share of renewables in final energy consumption increased modestly,** from 17.3 per cent in 2014 to 17.5 per cent in 2015. Yet only 55 per cent of the renewable share was derived from modern forms of renewable energy. The remainder represents traditional uses of biomass such as fuelwood and charcoal.

**41 per cent of the world's population (almost 3 billion people) continue to lack access to clean cooking solutions.** From 2000 to 2016, 1.4 billion people gained access to clean cooking fuels and technologies. However, these advancements were mostly offset by population growth during this period. Almost 4 million people, mostly women and children, are dying annually due to household air pollution from the inefficient cooking. The need for rapid deployment of clean cooking fuels and technologies has not received the political attention it deserves.

**4 in 10 people still lack access to clean cooking fuels and technologies**





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## Here is what we need to do

### Know

- ❖ Countries in special situations are lagging furthest behind. Investing in sustainable energy in these countries will have a significant positive impact across different SDGs and ensure no one is left behind.
- ❖ The lack of clean cooking fuels adversely impacts human health and well-being. This is especially true for women and children, who are typically the main procurers and users of household energy.

### Plan

- ❖ Strengthen interlinkages between SDG 7 and other SDGs: Harness cross-sectoral interlinkages to maximize multiple benefits and synergies e.g. through gender-sensitive energy actions and the promotion of sustainable and low-carbon cities.
- ❖ Close the electricity access gap: Establish detailed plans of action at all levels backed by determined leadership, targeted policies and regulations, multi-stakeholder partnerships, bottom-up actions and increased investment.
- ❖ Make clean-cooking solutions a top political priority, and put in place specific policies, cross-sectoral plans and public investments, supported by renewed game-changing multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- ❖ Improve data quality and availability: Improve the coverage and precision of household survey questionnaires and

strengthen statistical capacity to produce accurate energy balances, particularly in the developing countries.

### Act

- ❖ Improve energy efficiency: This can be achieved by scaling up investments in energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy.
- ❖ Increase renewable energy: Greater efforts are needed in end use sectors such as transport and heating/cooling.
- ❖ Strengthen capacity-building: Synthesize lessons of capacity-building strategies and activities including on enabling frameworks, technology cooperation, investment measures, technical know-how transfer and training
- ❖ Accelerate energy technology innovation: Research, development, deployment and diffusion in the design and operation of the whole energy system is needed.
- ❖ Double the global financing for SDG 7: The estimated financing requirements per year to 2030 for universal electrification are US\$ 52 billion, for universal access to clean cooking solutions are US\$ 4.4 billion, for renewable energy are US\$ 442 to 650 billion, for energy efficiency are US\$ 560 billion.

