



MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting of the Multi-stakeholder SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group

14 January 2019, IRENA HQ – Abu Dhabi

The multi-stakeholder SDG7 Technical Advisory Group (SDG7 TAG) met on Monday, January 14 2019 at the IRENA Headquarters at the margins of IRENA's 9th Annual Assembly. Ms. Sheila Oparaocha of ENERGIA and Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk of Norway, the co-facilitators, chaired the meeting. The Agenda is attached in [Annex 1](#). The list of participants is attached in [Annex 2](#). A list of ongoing and planned activities discussed is attached in [Annex 3](#).

Main Issues:

1- Opening Remarks and Procedural Matters

- a. The co-facilitators opened the meeting and commended IRENA for a successful Assembly and the organization's impressive body of work. Hans Olav Ibrekk informed the TAG that Francesco La Camera from Italy was elected as the new Director-General of IRENA and will assume office on the 4th of April. The co-facilitators thanked the outgoing Director-General, Adnan Amin for his invaluable service. The co-facilitators intend to meet with the new Director-General to brief him on the work of SDG7-TAG.
- b. Mrs. Rabia Ferroukhi, IRENA, gave a readout of IRENA's 9th Annual Assembly, highlighting the importance of key events on the geopolitical and socio-economic impacts of the energy transition and the role of gender in the energy transformation.
- c. The Participants adopted the summary of the last meeting of SDG7-TAG held in November 2018 in Geneva and the agenda for the current meeting as suggested by the secretariat.

2- Organizational Issues

- a. The secretariat introduced the updated terms of reference (TAG ToR) document that incorporated comments made at the Geneva meeting with special regard to balanced representation from a regional and gender perspective as well as the frequency of TAG meetings. TAG already has 35% of female representation which puts it ahead of the curve, but that it should strive to achieve 50%.
- b. On TAG membership, the secretariat proposed to make decisions on a case-by-case basis, taking on board only organizations that genuinely and constructively contribute to the work of the TAG, as there are numerous requests to join. Participants emphasized that TAG is an informal and voluntary exercise, and this should also be reflected in the terms of reference. The secretariat will review the original list with respect to organizations that have not been actively contributing and contact them before taking them off the list. The secretariat will also make suggestions and reach out to participants to be added to improve regional representation, and bring in academic and private sector perspectives, the latter in the form of industry associations to avoid the semblance of conflicts of interest. Certain entities could be brought in on a project specific basis, not necessarily as TAG members or observers.

- c. TAG will act as the steering committee for the annual SDG7 tracking report and this should be reflected in the terms of reference.
- d. Participants reiterated that TAG membership is informal. Participating organizations are responsible for nominating their representatives.

3- Illustrative report of SDG7 TAG activities 2018 – 2019, with a focus on 2019 key milestones

- a. The Secretariat introduced a draft document summarizing SDG7-TAG activities since its inception and highlighting key milestones in 2019. The document is intended to showcase TAG’s accomplishments in its first year and explain its activities. It can be used for reporting but also for communications purposes. Participants warmly welcomed the document and will submit comments to further improve it.
- b. The secretariat outlined the key milestones in 2019, with special regard to the following events:
 - Global Symposium on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Copenhagen, April 1-3.
 - A UN General Assembly resolution mandated conference on the mid-point review of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024, New York, May 23-24.
 - HLPF in July at the ministerial level, New York, July 9-15: SDGs 4 (quality education), 8 (inclusive economic growth and jobs), 10 (reduced inequality), 13 (climate change), 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and 17 (partnership for the goals) will be reviewed this year. Fifty-one countries will conduct Voluntary National Reviews for HLPF 2019.
 - The UN Climate Summit, New York, September 23.
 - HLPF at the heads of state and government level (SDG Summit), New York, September 24-25.
 - High-Level Review of the SAMOA Pathway, New York, September 27

4- SDG7 Policy Briefs in support of 2019 HLPF in July and the SDG Summit in Sept: Proposed outline, working arrangements and timeline

- a. The secretariat recapped the purpose and success of the 2018 policy briefs and proposed an outline for the 2019 edition, which will be formally launched at the Decade mid-point review in May in New York.
- b. Given the focus on climate change this year both due to HLPF and the Climate Summit, the climate change - energy nexus shall be reflected prominently in the policy briefs, perhaps in the form of a macro-framed standalone brief at the beginning of the policy briefs.
- c. Several participants emphasized that the importance of finance should be reflected appropriately.
- d. A policy brief on the linkages between Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and SDG7 shall be considered. IRENA is already working on the linkages between the two.
- e. A short summary of the actions emanating from and/or inspired by TAG should be included in the policy briefs, focusing on policy innovations, demonstrative of TAG’s impact.
- f. Participants agreed that shorter briefs would be ideal, and an overarching narrative and structure should be introduced to improve its readability.

- g. The burden of drafting the reports shall be shared more equally among the participating organizations, as IRENA and IEA shouldered a disproportionate share of the burden last year.
- h. The notion of a just transition was a central theme at COP 24 in Katowice and it should be considered in the policy briefs, while being mindful about not introducing too many new concepts. Job losses in fossil fuel sectors are a critical part of that puzzle and should be addressed accordingly.
- i. Reports on the regional specificities are critical and should be presented in granular detail.
- j. Refining the purpose and audience of the policy briefs as well as identifying the most effective communications channels are crucial to maximize impact. As they are primarily aimed to influence a political audience, delivery needs to be tailored to their interest and needs (supplying arguments for the clean energy transformation).
- k. Based on the comments and suggestions, the secretariat will circulate a new draft table of contents and suggested lead organisations for each policy brief.

5- SDG 7 progress monitoring:

a. Energy Tracking Report 2019 (SDG7 indicator custodians)

- IEA as the rotating chairman of the custodians gave an overview on the progress on the tracking report. TAG members will receive the first draft for comments by March 11 with feedback requested by March 20, which TAG members as steering committee will review. The report is planned to be formally launched at the UN during the Decade midpoint review, followed by additional dissemination events at the Clean Energy Ministerial in Vancouver, Canada, EU Energy Week in Brussels among others.

b. SDG 7 Indicators 7.a.1 and 7.b.1

- Updates were presented by IRENA (7.a.1) and IEA (7.b.1) respectively, including way forward.

c. Update on the Multi-Tier Framework

- The World Bank gave an overview on the application of the Multi-Tier Framework (MTF) for energy access, which is being piloted in 15 countries. Initial responses have been very positive. More countries are expected to be added.

d. New study on extending the MTF for SDG7 monitoring

- On behalf of Germany (BMZ), a GIZ representative provided a short update of the recent study on extending the MTF for productive sectors.

6- Technical discussions on global partnerships in support of SDG 7 implementation

- a. WHO gave an update on the Global Energy and Health Platform of Action, focusing on clean cooking and renewable energy for health centres.
- b. IRENA, ILO and partners gave an update on the Global Network on Energy and Jobs.
- c. UNITAR gave an update on the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement and solicited ideas for financing mechanisms for the Global Plan of Action.
- d. HIVOS, Netherlands, Kenya and partners gave an update on the Decentralized Renewable Energy for Access.

- e. DESA gave an update on the Global Network on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions.

7- Advocacy & Outreach: SDG7 related engagements (All TAG members)

- a. Participants briefly outlined key upcoming events:
 - International Workshop on SDG 7 Roadmaps, Bangkok, March (ESCAP)
 - Regional Forums on Sustainable Development during 1st/2nd Qs, (UN Regional Commissions)
 - Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, Copenhagen, 1-3 April (DESA and UNFCCC)
 - Midpoint Review of UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-24, NY, 23-24 May (DESA)
 - Clean Energy Ministerial, Vancouver, 27-29 May (IEA)
 - Energy Access and Finance for LDCs, Beijing, 30-31 May (OHRLLS/GEIDCO)
 - G-20 Energy & Environment, Nagano, June (IEA)
 - Arab Energy & Water Committee, Beirut, June (ESCWA)
 - EU Development Days, Brussels, June (EC)
 - HLPF, NY, 9-18 July (DESA)
 - SDG Summit, NY, 23 Sep (DESA): UAE to host preparatory meeting in June TAG to propose transformative actions on energy.
 - High-Level Review of the SAMOA Pathway, NY, 27 Sep (OHRLLS)

- 8- **Next SDG7 TAG meeting** will take place in Copenhagen, at the margins of the Synergies conference (tentatively, in the afternoon of 3 April 2019).

9- Next Steps:

- a. Secretariat to circulate updated TAG ToR reflecting the comments of participants and including an updated list of members.
- b. Secretariat to circulate updated draft table of contents for 2019 SDG7 policy briefs and suggested lead organizations for each policy brief.
- c. Secretariat to review membership and take appropriate action to invite new members/observers and de-list those who have not been active.

Annex 1. SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group Meeting

January 14, 2019 - 10.00 -16.00

IRENA Headquarters, Abu Dhabi

Draft Agenda

9:30 – 10:00 *Registration & Coffee*

10:00 – 12:30

10- Opening remarks

Sheila Oparaocha and Hans Olav Ibrekk, Co-Facilitators

11- Welcoming remarks by the host, including on main outcome of the IRENA Assembly

IRENA representative

12- Adoption of Summary of the last meeting

13- Adoption of Agenda

14- Organisational issues

- SDG7 TAG Terms of Reference
- SDG7 TAG membership

15- Illustrative report of SDG7 TAG activities 2018 – 2019, with a focus on 2019 key milestones

Secretariat

**16- SDG7 Policy Briefs in support of 2019 HLPF in July and the SDG Summit in Sept:
Proposed outline, working arrangements and timeline**

Secretariat

17- SDG 7 progress monitoring

- **Energy Tracking Report 2019** (SDG7 indicator custodians)
- **Update on SDG 7 indicators 7.1.a (IRENA) and 7.1.b (IEA)**
- **Update on the Multi-Tier Framework (ESMAP)**
- **Update on a new study on extending the MTF for SDG7 monitoring (BMZ/GIZ)**

12:30 – 13:30 *Lunch break*

13:30 – 16:00

18- Technical discussions on global partnerships in support of SDG 7 implementation

- f. Global Energy and Health Platform of Action
WHO, UNDP and partners
- g. Global Network on Energy and Jobs
IRENA, ILO and partners
- h. Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement
UNITAR and partners
- i. Decentralized Renewable Energy for Access
BMZ, Netherlands, HIVOS and partners
- j. Global Network on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions
DESA and partners

19- UN Climate Summit 2019

- Stocktaking Meeting, Abu Dhabi, May
- UN Climate Summit 2019, New York, 23 Sep

20- Advocacy & Outreach: SDG7 related engagements (All TAG members)

- International Workshop on SDG 7 Roadmaps, Bangkok, March (ESCAP)
- Regional Forums on Sustainable Development during 1st/2nd Qs, (UN Regional Commissions)
- Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, Copenhagen, 1-3 April (DESA and UNFCCC)
- Midpoint Review of UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-24, NY, 23-24 May (DESA)
- Clean Energy Ministerial, Vancouver, 27-29 May (IEA)
- Energy for LDC Conference, Beijing, end of May (OHRLLS/GEIDCO)
- G-20 Energy & Environment, Nagano, June (IEA)
- Arab Energy & Water Committee, Beirut, June (ESCWA)
- EU Development Days, Brussels, June (EC)
- HLPF, NY, 9-18 July (DESA)
- SDG Summit, NY, 23 Sep (DESA)
- High-Level Review of the SAMOA Pathway, NY, 27 Sep (OHRLLS)

21- Update on UN-Energy

UNDP

22- Next SDG7 TAG meetings

- 3 April, Copenhagen
- July, New York (in the margin of HLPF)

23- Conclusions and Next Steps

Sheila Oparaocha and Hans Olav Ibrekk

Annex 2 - List of participants attending SDG7 TAG meeting in Abu Dhabi, 14 January 2019

Organisation	Name
ENERGIA	Sheila Oparaocha (co-facilitator)
Norway	Hans Olav Ibrekk (co-facilitator)
IRENA (host)	Rabia Ferroukhi, Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Emma Aberg, Salvatore Vinci, Michael Renner, Divyam Nagpal, Elizabeth Press, Adrian Whiteman
The Netherlands	Frank van der Vleuten
Germany	Sofja Giljova (GIZ)
Kenya	Paul Mbuti
European Commission	Felice Zaccheo
IIASA	Luis Gomez Echeverri (online)
IEA	Paolo Frankl, Cecilia Tam/Arthur Contejean (online)
UNIDO	Rana Ghoneim, Alois Mhlanga
UN ECE	Scott Foster (online)
UN ESCWA	Radia Sedaoui
WB	Elisa Portale, Stephen Halloway (online)
WHO	Heather Adair-Rohani
Sierra Leone (observer)	H.E. Kandeh Yumkella
UNITAR (observer)	Thomas Forhgrub
Hivos (observer)	Rita Poppe
ILO (observer)	Moustapha Kamal Gueye (online)
UNITAR	Thomas Forhgrub
AfDB (observer)	Daniel Schroth
Ren21 (observer)	Rana Adib
SELCO Foundation (observer)	Harish Hande
SE4All (observer)	Glenn Pearce-Oroz
Power For All (observer)	William Brent
UNDESA (ex officio)	Minoru Takada, David Koranyi, and Nadine Salame (online)