



High-Level Dialogue on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2019: A Mid-Point Review

New York, 23-24 May 2018

Concept Note

Background

Energy lies at the heart of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Advancement in SDG7 on energy has the potential to spur progress across SDGs on poverty eradication, gender equality, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, food security, health, education, sustainable cities and communities, clean water and sanitation, jobs, innovation, transport, and refugees and other situations of displacement.

In 2012, the General Assembly approved resolution 67/215, by which it declared the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014–2024, underscoring the importance of energy issues for sustainable development. Subsequently, the General Assembly called for the rapid implementation of the strategic objectives of the global plan of action for the Decade, including in resolution 72/224. More recently, through its resolution 73/236 on “Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all”, the General Assembly invited *“the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to convene dialogues, which could consist of a series of events including discussions among energy policy makers and other multi-stakeholders in 2019 to be supported by the Secretariat, in order to discuss the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including the global plan of action for the Decade as described in the report of the Secretary-General”*.

Organized by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in collaboration with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy, and members of UN-Energy and the Technical Advisory Group on SDG 7, this high-level dialogue will convene energy policymakers and other stakeholders to discuss the implementation of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024, including its global plan of action that was built on the review of SDG7 at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018.

Objectives and Outcome

The main objective of this High-Level Dialogue is to provide a platform to discuss major issues and demonstrate action related to the implementation of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024, with a focus on interlinkages between SDG7 and other SDGs. More specifically, the Dialogue aims at:

- Reviewing the implementation of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including its global plan of action;
- Building capacities of developing country experts/officials aimed at accelerating the implementation of SDG7;
- Sharing best practices, lessons learned, new challenges and emerging opportunities;
- Launching the 2019 SDG7 Energy Tracking Report and the 2019 SDG7 Policy Briefs;

- Informing forthcoming discussions related to SDG 7, such as the ministerial segment of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development as well as the Climate Action Summit, the SDG Summit and the High review of SAMOA Pathway in September 2019.

DRAFT PROGRAMME - OVERVIEW

Thursday, 23 May: Expert Round Tables (09:00-18:00)

Venue: Conference Room 6 and 8, UN Headquarters

A series of technically-oriented expert roundtable discussions will feature national policy-makers and experts on energy, members of the multi-stakeholder SDG7 Technical Advisory Group (SDG7-TAG) and other relevant stakeholders, to build their capacities and share key policy messages, demonstrate action and discuss future directions towards the implementation of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including its global plan of action.

Friday, 24 May: High-Level Briefings and Interactive Dialogues (10:00-13:00)

Venue: ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters

This high-level plenary session will review the progress towards the goals of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, and its global plan of action. Senior representatives of Member States and multi-stakeholders will be invited to share remarks, followed by an open dialogue session on accelerating the implementation of the goals of the Decade.

10:00 – 10:20 a.m. **Welcoming Keynotes**

10:20 – 11:00 a.m. **Session 1: Ministerial Panel – Member States’ Perspectives**

11:00 – 11:35 a.m. **Session 2: Measuring Progress Towards the Objectives of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024**

- Keynote presentation: *Launch of the 2019 SDG7 Energy Tracking Report*
- High-level Panel

11:35 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Session 3: Policy Challenges and Opportunities to Reach the Goals of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024**

- Keynote presentation: *Launch of the 2019 SDG7 Policy Briefs*
- High-level Panel

12:15 – 12:50 p.m. **Session 4: Interactive Dialogue on Accelerating the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024**

- Actions and Commitments related to SDG7 in support of the Climate Action Summit and the SDG Summit

12:50 - 1:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**