



**High-Level Dialogue on the implementation of the
United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024:
A Mid-Point Review**

New York, 23-24 May 2019

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 SDG 7 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 adopted 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. 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 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 DESA in collaboration with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy, 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 SDG 7 at the High-Level Political Forum 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 SDG 7 and other SDGs. More specifically, the aim includes:

- *Reviewing the implementation of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including its global plan of action.*
- *Sharing best practices, lessons learned, new challenges and emerging opportunities on SDG 7, including key messages from the first Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development held in April 2019 in Copenhagen.*

- *Mobilizing commitments and actions* to accelerate the implementation of SDG 7 in support of the Climate Action Summit 2019.
- *Launching the 2019 SDG 7 Energy Tracking Report and the 2019 SDG 7 Policy Briefs.*
- *Informing forthcoming discussions related to SDG 7*, such as the ministerial level High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July as well as the Climate Action Summit, the SDG Summit and the High-Level Review of SAMOA Pathway in September.
- *Promoting synergetic action between SDGs and climate action*, building on the outcomes of the first global conference on synergies in Copenhagen, April 1-3, 2019.

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 23 May: Expert Round Tables (09:30-17:00)

Venue: UN Headquarters, CR 6 and CR 8

A series of technically-oriented expert roundtable events will feature national policy-makers and experts on energy, members of the multi-stakeholder SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group (SDG 7-TAG) and other relevant stakeholders, to 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.

9:30-10:30	<p>UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024: Advancing SDG 7 to Achieve the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – CR6</p> <p><u>Moderator</u> Minoru Takada, Sustainable Energy Team Leader, UN DESA</p> <p><u>Remarks</u> Sheila Oparaocha, Co-chair, SDG 7-TAG, and Executive Director, ENERGIA Youth representative Hans Olav Ibrekk, Co-chair, SDG 7-TAG, and Policy Director, Energy and Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway Rohit Khanna, Practice Manager, Energy Climate Finance & ESMAP, World Bank Rikke Skou Melsen, Senior Policy Adviser, Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations Biruk Mekonnen Demissie, Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations Muhammad Imran Khan, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations</p>
10:30-10:45	<p>Break</p>

10:45 – 12:00	<p>2019 SDG 7 Policy Briefs with a focus on the interlinkages between SDG 7 and SDGs 4,8,10,13 and 16 – CR6</p> <p>Moderator: Sheila Oparaocha, Co-chair, SDG 7-TAG, and Executive Director, ENERGIA</p> <p>Panel: Amy Wickham, Climate and Energy Specialist, UNICEF Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Permanent Observer to the UN, IRENA Kristina Skierka, CEO, Power for All Sofía Martínez-Martínez, Senior Policy Officer, European Commission Laura E. Williamson, Outreach and Communications Manager, REN21 Thomas Ritzer, Political Affairs Officer, UN DPPA/UN Climate Security Mechanism David Koranyi, Policy Advisor on Sustainable Energy, UN DESA</p>	
12:00–13:00	Lunch	
13:00–13:50	<p>Regional Dimensions – CR6</p> <p>Moderator: Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, UN-ESCAP</p> <p>Panel: Heidi Schroderus-Fox, Director, UN-OHRLLS Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UN ECE Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, UN-ESCWA Caroline Usikpedo-Omoniye, National Coordinator of the Civil Society Advance Forum on Sustainable Development, Nigeria</p>	<p>Means of Implementation: Financing SDG 7 – CR8</p> <p>Moderator: Marcel Alers, Head of Energy, UNDP</p> <p>Panel: Yeren-Ulzii Batmunkh, Head of Investment and Production Division, Policy Planning Department of the Ministry of Energy, Mongolia Rohit Khanna, Practice Manager, Energy Climate Finance & ESMAP, World Bank Daniel Schroth, Acting Director for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, Advisor to the Vice President, Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth Complex, African Development Bank Jagjeet Sareen, Director of Finance, International Solar Alliance</p>
13:50–14:00	Break	
14:00 – 14:50	<p>Answering the Clean Cooking Challenge – CR6</p> <p>Moderator: Sheila Oparaocha, Co-chair, SDG 7-TAG, and Executive Director, ENERGIA</p> <p>Panel: Anobha Gurung, Technical Officer, World Health Organization Doris Edem Agbevivi, Energy Analyst, Energy Commission, Ghana Donee Alexander, Senior Director of Evidence & Impact, Clean Cooking Alliance Rita Poppe, Policy Advisor, Green & Inclusive Energy, HIVOS</p>	

14:50– 15:10	Break	
15:10– 16:00	<p>Measuring SDG 7 Progress: The Multi-Tier Framework for Energy Access – CR6</p> <p>Presentation: Elisa Portale, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Panel: Paul Mbuti, Senior Asst. Director of Renewable Energy, Kenya Nozipho Wright, ENERGIA Representative in the Women Major Group</p>	<p>Digitalization and the future of energy systems – CR8</p> <p>Moderator: Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UN ECE</p> <p>Panel: Vijay Modi, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Director, Infrastructure Programs, Earth Institute, Columbia University Claudia Linke-Heep, Deputy Representative, UNIDO New York Office Arthur Contejean, Analyst – Energy Access, International Energy Agency</p>
16:00– 16:10	Break	
16:10 – 16:55	<p>Implementing the Global Action Plan for the UN Decade: Multi-stakeholder Actions and Partnerships on SDG 7 in support of the Climate Action Summit and the SDG Summit – CR6</p> <p>Moderator: Hans Olav Ibrekk, Co-chair, SDG 7-TAG, and Policy Director, Energy and Climate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway</p> <p>Panel: Karim Elbana, Energy & Climate Expert and Representative of the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth Isabel Raya, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</p> <p>Interactive dialogue</p>	
16:55– 17:00	Closing – CR6	

Note: The listed speakers include those to be confirmed and are subject to change.

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 their remarks, followed by an open dialogue session on accelerating the implementation of the goals of the Decade.

9:45 - 10:00

Family Photo

10:00 – 10:15

Welcoming Keynotes

Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Vice President of the General Assembly (tbc)

Luis Alfonso de Alba, Special Envoy for the 2019 Climate Summit

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) – via video message

10:15 – 10:55

Session 1: Ministerial Panel

Opening remarks by UN-Energy Co-Chairs:

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, and Co-Chair of UN-Energy

Rachel Kyte, SRSG for Sustainable Energy for All, Co-Chair of UN-Energy, and CEO of SEforAll

Ministerial Remarks:

H.E. Mr. Charles Keter, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Republic of Kenya

H.E. Mr. Davaasuren Tserenpi, Minister of Energy, Mongolia

H.E. Mr. Barshaman Pun 'Ananta', Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal

10:55 – 11:35

Session 2: Measuring Progress Towards the Objectives of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024

Co-Chairs:

H.E. Ms. Maleeha Lodhi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, and Co-Chair of UN-Energy

Presentation: Launch of *Tracking SDG 7: 2019 Energy Progress Report*

Dave Turk, Head of the Strategic Initiatives Office, International Energy Agency (Chair of Tracking SDG 7: 2019 Energy Progress Report)

Rohit Khanna, Practice Manager, Energy Climate Finance & ESMAP, World Bank

Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Permanent Observer to the UN, International Renewable Energy Agency

Werner H. Obermeyer, Deputy Executive Director, WHO Office at the United Nations

Leonardo Rocha Souza, Chief, Energy Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division, UN DESA

11:35 – 12:15

Session 3: Policy Challenges and Opportunities to Reach the Goals of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024

Co-Chairs:

H.E. Ms Mari Skåre, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations

Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General, OHRRLLS

Presentation: Launch of *the SDG 7 Policy Briefs 2019*

Hans Olav Ibrekk, Policy Director, Energy and Climate Change, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Co-facilitator of the SDG 7-TAG)

Sheila Oparaocha, Executive Director, ENERGIA (Co-facilitator of the SDG 7-TAG)

Panel:

Upendra Tripathy, Director General, International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Michael Eckhart, Managing Director and Global Head of Environmental Finance and Sustainability, Citigroup

12:15 – 12:55

Session 4: Interactive dialogue - 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 SDG 7 in support of the Climate Action Summit and the SDG Summit

Co-Chairs:

H.E. Mr. Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations

Rachel Kyte, SRSG for Sustainable Energy for All, Co-Chair of UN-Energy, and CEO of SEforAll

Interactive dialogue – Interventions limited to 2 minutes per each Member State or other multi-stakeholder

Lead discussants:

H.E. Ms. Maleeha Lodhi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Toshiya Hoshino, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Interventions from the floor will follow.

12:55 - 13:00

Closing

Elliott Harris, Assistant-Secretary-General, Department for Economic and Social Affairs