



ACCELERATING SDG 7 ACHIEVEMENT

ACTION BRIEF 3

GLOBAL NETWORK ON ENERGY AND JOBS

7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY



ACTION BRIEF #3

GLOBAL NETWORK ON ENERGY AND JOBS

Developed by

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the International Labour Organization (ILO)

In collaboration with

European Commission, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Global Green Growth Institute, PowerForAll, The World Bank

Summary

IRENA recently initiated the creation of an Energy and Jobs Platform, with the ILO, European Commission, UN Industrial Development Organization, Power for All, Global Green Growth Institute, and the World Bank. As employment opportunities related to renewable energy and energy efficiency expand, it is important to consider how to ensure a just transition regarding different regions, countries, communities and workers.

The initial objectives of the Platform include: improving knowledge about challenges and opportunities; bringing together stakeholders for cross-disciplinary dialogues; sharing best practices and data; strengthening capacity building regarding policies, regulations, and approaches; and enhancing advocacy, communications and outreach to help countries conduct evidence-based dialogues.

Activities would initially build on the ongoing work of the partners, such as: compiling data on the employment implications of the energy transition, including job gains and losses and reskilling efforts; improving knowledge of occupational skills requirements, and measures to ensure everyone is included; assessing the implications of the energy transition for productive uses, industrial development, and regional development; and examining the challenges of a 'just energy transition,' including gender gaps in employment.

The output of the platform could involve creation of an online (data) portal, workshops, case studies and analytical reports, capacity building and training, and outreach and advocacy engagement through international dialogues.

The Energy and Jobs Platform

As the energy transition gathers pace, understanding the importance of socio-economic dimensions is critical. Although conventional energy sources still play a major role, the dynamics of technical innovation, investment patterns, government policies and regulations, and energy market design are poised to give renewable energy and energy efficiency an ever-growing role. Research indicates that the number of jobs in both areas is expanding, while employment in fossil fuels is largely stagnant or declining. Transition scenarios indicate possible pathways over the coming decades, and economic modelling offers an indication of the benefits and challenges along the way, for different regions, countries, and communities.

However, the linkages between energy and employment find expression in multiple additional ways. Important questions concern labour policies, education policies, skills training strategies, workplace quality, and decent jobs policies, as well as ways to empower women and accord equal opportunities in hiring, retention, and career advancement. Ensuring greater energy access is another critical dimension and creates new jobs when new supply chains for mini-grid and off-grid technologies are developed, and when productive energy use supports local jobs and livelihoods. Globally, policies enabling the deployment of renewables need to be accompanied by industrial policies to develop viable supply chains (energy and non-energy related); this is important for broader employment creation and for supporting regional economic development. Finally, the energy-employment nexus needs to aim for a just transition for all.

A number of actors have been active in this field of work for a number of years and produced valuable contributions in the form of knowledge products, workshops, case studies and analytical reports, and capacity building and trainings. Several of these partners have worked together under the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group to develop the policy brief on the interlinkages between SDG 7 and jobs. To further advance the work on SDG 7 and SDG 8, one of the conclusions was that increased collaboration is needed between partners in this field. As a result, IRENA initiated the creation in early 2019 of an Energy and Jobs Platform. As of today, partners of the platform include the International Labour Organization (ILO), European Commission, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Power for All, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), and the World Bank.

At this initial stage, the following tentative objectives have been identified to guide the work of the Platform:

improve knowledge and understanding of key challenges and opportunities;

bring together key stakeholders and stimulate a cross-disciplinary dialogue aimed at addressing varying views, needs, and proposed policies;

share best practices, experiences and quality data;

strengthen capacity building with regard to policies, regulations, and approaches needed to effectively manage the energy-employment interlinkages and their implications for other SDGs; and, finally,

enhance advocacy, communications, and outreach to help countries conduct evidence-based dialogues and facilitate broad-based implementation of SDG 7 and SDG 8.

A mapping of activities and priorities in the field has taken place in early 2019 and, based on these key joint activities, expected outcomes will be identified. Such activities may include discussion of concepts and methodologies, review of report drafts and other partner inputs, joint events, etc.

Some of the previous work of the partners of the platform is highlighted below.



Suggested potential activities for the Energy and Jobs Platform

In order to address the interlinkages between energy and jobs in more detail and further develop analytical insights and policy recommendations, the platform aims to bring together key stakeholders with demonstrated experience in the topic and stimulate a cross-disciplinary dialogue aimed at addressing varying views, needs, and proposed policies.

Activities would initially be conducted building on the ongoing work carried out by all partners. The undertaken activities could include:

- Compiling data on the employment implications of the energy transition, including job gains in renewable energy and energy efficiency, job losses in conventional forms of energy, and reskilling efforts as needed to facilitate job transitions.
- Improving knowledge of occupational and skills requirements, including measures to avoid the emergence of skills gaps and measures to ensure everyone is included (gender, youth, age, and minority and/or disadvantaged groups).

- Analysing broader policies and measures that can maximise the socio-economic benefits of the transition.
- Assessing the implications of the energy transition for industrial development and regional development efforts, including opportunities for leveraging and enhancing domestic capacities along the value chain.
- Examining the challenges and opportunities of a 'just energy transition,' including developing a clear definition and undertaking analysis of the implications for countries, regions, and communities.
- Refining knowledge of qualitative employment aspects.
- Studying the employment and livelihood opportunities in the context of improving energy access and enhanced productive uses of energy.
- Assessing the gender dimension of the energy transition, including gaps between women and men in recruitment, retention and advancement, and the overall talent pool.

Potential activities of the platform could involve an online (data) portal, workshops, case studies and analytical reports, capacity building and trainings, and outreach and advocacy engagements vis-à-vis relevant international dialogues and fora.

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**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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