
Advancing the 2030 Agenda: Interlinkages and Common Themes at the HLPF 2018

An expert group meeting in preparation for HLPF 2018:

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

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**SDG 7: Ensuring access to affordable, reliable,
sustainable and modern energy for all**

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Introduction

- The world is in a big and urgent need of transformative solutions that can bend the present trajectories towards a more sustainable future with greater wellbeing for all
- Access to energy services is a prerequisite for human development and well-being as well as prosperous economic development and job creation
- Many developing countries has urgent needs to address access to energy services through a rapid and wide scale expansion of both electricity generating capacity – on-grid and off-grid – and the supply of other forms of energy
- The SDG 7 aims to close the energy access gap and “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” through a combination of national action and international cooperation

Observations

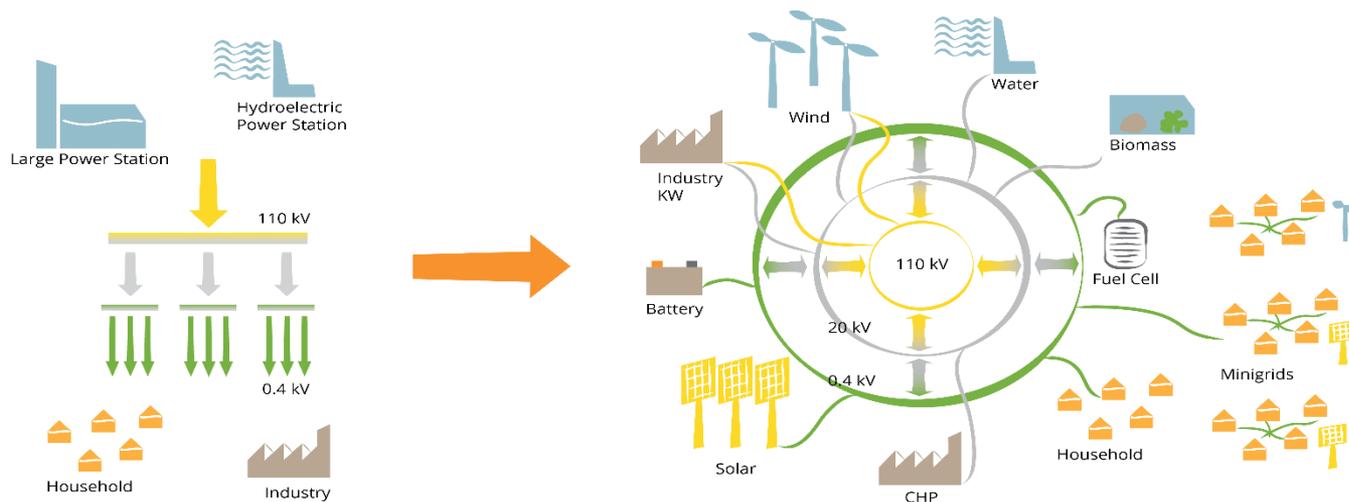
- Energy access is ambiguous and no clear universally accepted definition
 - Electricity access referred to sometimes as number of households supplied
 - Lack of access to clean cooking facilities referred to as relying for cooking only on traditional biomass and 3 stones
 - Sometimes access is seen as solely household energy issues
 - Energy access goes beyond household and basic needs
- Energy access is used within a particular context
- Initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable energy access are not new
- Renewable sources of energy are key to the SDG7
- Many of such initiatives in the past did not provide meaningful results for various reasons
- It is crucial to identify and analyze critical issues, barriers and opportunities that will help stimulating the achievement of the SDG7 taking into account lessons from the various initiatives

Energy access discussion may resolve around

- Appropriate technology
 - Suitable business models
 - Notion of accessibility, availability, affordability, and being used
 - Physical access, physical availability of energy infrastructure
 - Quality and reliability of services
 - Adequacy, acceptability, cleanness
 - Energy transition as an adequate framework to address energy access
 - Processes behind development of human societies
 - Change in one state of energy system to another one in terms of quantity, structure of end-use and supply, and quality
 - Linked to technical, economic, political, and social, changes
 - Significant set of changes to patterns of energy use in a society, potentially affecting energy sources, carriers, converters, and services
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Addressing energy access is a complex exercise involving balancing across various dimensions

- Contextualizing energy access: understanding categories – scale – type – magnitude
- Respective roles of various energy systems in a specific context
- Readiness of supply and end-use energy technologies to the prevailing conditions
- Policy and regulation for energy access: a myriad of policy instruments and regulations are widely used by variety of projects
- Energy deprived populations
- Energy deficient populations
- Energy insecure populations



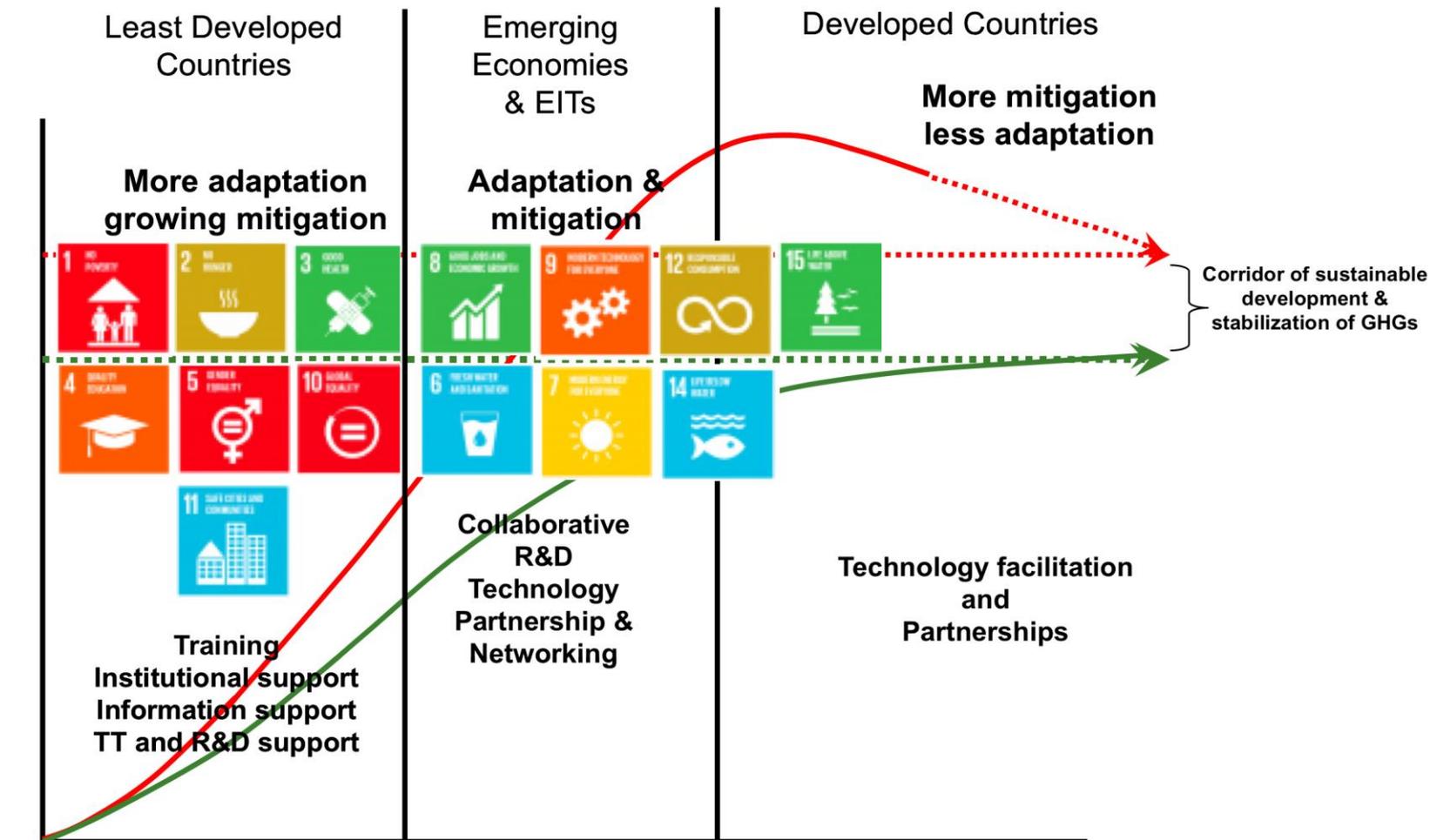
SDG7 offers enabling conditions and powerful support to the other SDGs

- SDG6 – Energy is crucial for widening water availability, access and resolving scarcity, improving management, controlling pollution. Some energy sources if not correctly managed could have counteracting effect on water
- SDG11 – Energy is central to human settlements and in particular cities and design and management of cities have huge implications on energy
- SDG12 – Energy is essential improving consumption and production patterns
- SDG15 – Some energy sources deployment will reinforce the objective of halting deforestation, protection of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable management of forests, prevention of biodiversity losses, etc.
- SDG17 – Accelerating the pace of energy transition and expanding its scope will bring substantial social, economic and environmental benefits, but will require global partnerships

Figure 5 Affordable and clean energy supports all Sustainable Development Goals



Achieving SDGs differs in each country and by income group - there is no “one size fits all” solution!



Pre-requisites for benefiting interlinkages

- Country ownership is fundamental
 - Institutional and policy innovation are vital
 - Adequate prioritizing investment will be crucial
 - Endogenous technology development and deployment is important
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The forming new paradigm should be explored

- The rapid growth of renewables reflects commitment by governments around the world in response to pressing challenges and emerging opportunities
 - Lessons from myriad of experiences and initiatives
 - Focus on countries and regions with limited and/or lack of policy
 - Mobilization of non-state actors
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Thank you