



SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group Meeting  
15 March – 9:00 to 10:30 am EST (NY Time)  
Teleconference

## Meeting Summary

Members of the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group met via a conference call, 09:00 - 10:30 EST, 15 March 2021. The list of participants and the agenda in Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively.

### 1. Opening remarks

- a. The SDG7-TAG Co-Chairs, Ms. Sheila Oparocha and Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk, highlighted the good progress made on the Policy Briefs and encouraged the submission of those still outstanding.

### 2. Adoption of Agenda

- a. The draft agenda was adopted without amendments.

### 3. Policy Briefs 2021 – Review of Status and Way Forward

The focal points provided short remarks followed by an opportunity for questions and answers on each Policy Brief.

#### Strengthening Interlinkages

SDG2: Zero Hunger: FAO, Power for All, UAE, ESCWA, EU DEVCO, UNIDO, review CCA

- a. The collaborative effort on the Policy Brief was noted, with an intentional focus on energy access. Regional case studies, including Asia, Africa, Central America, and MENA with national representation, were included to highlight challenges.

SDG3: Good Health and Well-Being: WHO, ESCWA, IRENA, CCA, UNICEF, IIASA

- a. The draft Policy Brief has a focus on clean cooking and health care. In addition to official indicators already in use, potential additional indicators are suggested in the Policy Brief.

SDG 5: Gender Equality: UN Women, Ministry of Energy Kenya and Hivos/ENERGIA, ECA, ESCWA, EU DEVCO, UNIDO, review by CCA

- a. The first draft would be shared this week. The Policy Brief is intended to be forward-looking and aspirational, with a focus on employment, as well as on clean cooking. Another focus will be on the intersectionality of the care economy and SDG 7, particularly concerning the COVID 19 pandemic. The draft Policy Brief further outlines the need for investment in gender equality from country governments, not only at the program level. The remaining challenge is identifying indicators with sufficient data availability and the strong integration of SDG 13.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: ILO, IRENA and GGGI with contributions from other Sustainable Energy and Jobs Platform (SEJP) partners, including GOGLA, GWNET, Power for All, REN21, SELCO; and EU DEVCO, review by CCA

- a. The draft Policy Brief emphasizes making the sector more gender-sensitive, focusing on women's talents and skills, building on case studies from India, Kenya, and Nigeria. An

emphasis is placed on the quality of employment, which will be outlined using the ILO's four-pillar Decent Work Agenda approach. Necessary are economic stimulus packages and long-term plans, which have to be infused with holistic approaches to advance a just transition and livelihood creation. Decentralized solutions could offer great potential for job creation, e.g. "Solar Power Naija" as an exemplary case study from Nigeria.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: UNIDO, EU DEVCO, ECA, review by CCA

- a. Particular emphasis is placed on the rising energy consumption, with the associated need for investments in R&D, innovation and improved technologies, especially in developing countries for SMEs. The contribution of the sector to clean cooking solutions is considered in the draft Policy Brief. Indicators would still need to be identified.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: REN21, EU DEVCO, ECA, review by IRENA

- a. The interlinkages are particularly strong due to city governments' vested interests in the power sector, heating & cooling and transport. Key actions include recognizing cities in NDCs, context-specific solutions for joint achievement, policy reforms that take into account new technologies, a transition away from centralized national energy utilities, and better data availability.

SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: UNIDO, ESCWA, EU DEVCO, IIASA

- a. The draft Policy Brief builds on circular economy principles. Challenges include coordination of national actions and absence of a global governance framework, insufficient funding, innovation and capacity building. Solutions include integrating circular economy principles to phase out fossil fuels, stronger policy coordination, incorporating circular economy principles into NDCs and the COVID recovery.

SDG 13: Climate Action: IRENA, EU DEVCO, ECA, ESCWA, FAO, UNIDO, Hivos, IIASA review by CCA

- a. The Policy Brief first shows the impact of the energy sector on the climate, then highlight the influence of COVID 19, further explain the socio-economic benefits and opportunities, followed by a presentation of existing initiatives and conclude with a call to action. The call to action includes themes such as a green COVID 19 recovery, a coal phase-out, cross-sectoral collaboration, required funding, a continuation of global solidarity and energy resilience.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions: UNITAR, review by World Bank

- a. The focus is placed on interlinkages between SDG7 and the humanitarian-development-peace nexus (triple nexus). In displacement situations, access is critical but primarily still based on fossil fuels. Four policy recommendations were developed; namely, greater evidence through data and research, collaboration to overcome silos between organizations, integration of displaced people's energy needs into national energy plans, and a focus on inclusive financial mechanisms that include the private sector. Data availability in fragile situations remains a concern.

SDG 17: Partnership for the Goals: Power for All, ECA, review by CCA

- a. The draft Policy Brief is expected next week. Given the breadth of SDG17, participants were asked to share their experience and specific insights on challenges.

## **Regional Perspective**

Advancing SDG7 in Latin America and the Caribbean: ECLAC, Hivos, review by IRENA

- a. The urgency of action in the face of the COVID pandemic was highlighted: 18 million people without electricity access and 50 million people without clean cooking technologies in this region. The need for technological improvement and stronger policies and regulations was emphasized to improve energy efficiency. A regional report by ECLAC

will contain data, especially regarding energy poverty, which can support an indicator framework for forthcoming Policy Briefs.

### **Towards Sustainable and Equitable Energy Future**

Multi-tier framework for measuring access to electricity and clean cooking solutions: World Bank/ESMAP, review by CCA

- a. The need for further data collection was emphasized, including through technical support to national governments and national statistical services.

RISE- Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Development: World Bank/ESMAP

- a. RISE, which scores countries' policies and regulations in the energy sectors, includes indicators that measure the progress of 138 developed and developing countries between 2010 and 2019. Rapid improvements in sub-Saharan Africa were highlighted. The need for data integration into indexes that form a common basis was emphasized, with RISE being included in the WEF Energy Transition Index.

### **4. Update on the Tracking SDG7: Energy Progress Report**

- a. The draft chapters of the Energy Progress Report 2021 will be shared on 16 March for comments by SDG7 TAG. Key messages and recommendations are well advanced and will be shared soon. The Co-Facilitators emphasized that all TAG members should prioritize the peer review as the launch is scheduled for early June.

### **5. Update by the Secretariat on the High-level Dialogue on Energy**

- a. Mr. Takada, Energy Team Leader, UN DESA, as representative of the Secretariat gave a brief progress update. It was emphasized that the SDG 7 TAG Policy Briefs will provide excellent content for the TWG 3 report. In particular, the importance of indicators was highlighted.

### **6. AOB**

- a. No additional issues were raised.

### **7. Conclusions and Next Steps**

- a. The Co-Facilitators recognized the progress on the Policy Briefs and urged to focus on ensuring clear summaries, strong recommendations as well as indicators. The next steps for the Policy Briefs: comments to be provided within one week, with emphasis on the urgency for Policy Briefs that have not yet been shared. The following week is planned for revisions of the drafts. The next meeting will subsequently be held. The review of the SDG 7 Energy Tracking Report 2021 needs to be focused on now as to ensure a timely joint launch. The launch date will be determined by the next meeting.

## Annex 1: Participants List

Organisation	Name
ENERGIA	Sheila Oparaocha (co-facilitator)
Norway	Hans Olav Ibrekk (co-facilitator)
European Commission	Sofia Martinez
Germany	Paul Recknagel
Netherlands	Frank van der Vleuten
FIA foundation	Asna Towfiq
IEA	Kieran McNamara
IRENA	Emma Aberg; Peter Noyce; Michael Renner; Sofja Giljova
Ren21	Rana Adib; Laura Williamson
Power for all	William Brent
UN ECLAC	Ruben Contreras Lispergue
UNEP	John Christensen
UNIDO	Rana Ghoneim; Paula Hernandez; Nicholas Dehod
UNITAR	Thomas Fohgrub; Philip Sandwell
UNSD	Leonardo Souza; Agnieszka Koscielniak
Vienna University of Technology	Nebojsa Nakicenovic
WB	Elisa Portale, Stephen Halloway
WHO	Heather Adair-Rohani; Lydia Abebe
UNDESA (ex officio)	Minoru Takada; Bahareh Seyedi; Martin Niemetz; David Koranyi; Nadine Salame

## Annex 2: Agenda



Convened by



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Draft Agenda

1. Opening remarks
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Policy Briefs 2021 – Review of Status and Way Forward
4. Update on the Tracking SDG7: Energy Progress Report
5. Update by the Secretariat on the High-level Dialogue on Energy
6. AOB
7. Conclusions and Next Steps