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## **SDG7 Technical Advisory Group Releases Policy Briefs Highlighting SDG Interlinkages**

**7 June 2021** -- The Technical Advisory Group for Sustainable Development Goal 7 today released this year's edition of the SDG7 Policy Briefs, which provide policy recommendations towards achieving affordable and clean energy for all by 2030.

This year, the compilation of Policy Briefs places a special focus on the interlinkages of SDG7 with all other SDGs. It underlines that decisive action on sustainable energy can catalyse progress towards all the other SDGs, as well as towards global climate protection targets. Indeed, the Policy Briefs note how energy is essential to all other SDGs, including ending poverty and hunger, running healthcare facilities, improving gender equality, and providing access to education, clean water and sanitation. Energy is also key to promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, creating employment and reducing inequalities. Moreover, it can help to promote sustainable production and consumption, build sustainable cities, and create a blue ocean economy. It even has an essential role in the challenge of building and maintaining peace, justice and strong institutions. Importantly, energy is indispensable for effective climate action.

"This fourth edition of the Policy Briefs, coordinated by the SDG7-TAG, will provide a strong basis for determining what needs to be done to scale up and accelerate progress on SDG 7 between now and 2030, and how energy action can best be leveraged for the achievement of all the other SDGs," said Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. "I am encouraged that the SDG 7 Policy Briefs have already provided substantive inputs into the preparatory process for the High-level Dialogue on Energy in September, especially on enabling SDGs through just, inclusive energy transitions."

The SDG7 Policy Briefs are released annually in support of the deliberations at the High-level Political Forum, contributing also to the [High-level Dialogue on Energy](#) in September, and the implementation of the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs and the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024.

The Briefs are compiled by the multi-stakeholder SDG7 Technical Advisory Group, composed of 40 experts from Governments, UN and international organizations, and other stakeholders. Convened by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the Group is led by the co-facilitators Ms. Sheila Oparaocha, Coordinator of ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy, and Mr. Hans Olav Ibrenk, Policy Director, Section for Energy and Climate Change, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The compilation includes Policy Briefs on the status of SDG 7, its interlinkages with the other SDGs, regional priorities and innovative instruments.

The Briefs clearly illustrate that we must act now, quickly and decisively. So much of the world's future quality of life depends on reaching the targets for SDG 7 and the Paris Agreement, but there is very little time left to act before the impacts of climate change become irreversible and devastating, according to scientists. We must find new and more effective ways to communicate the urgency of the situation, as there are still large portions of the world's population without modern energy services, and we continue to use polluting energy systems that are leading us towards climate disaster. Making a rapid transition to a clean energy future for all will have enormous impacts on the quality of people's daily lives, as well as the survival of future generations.

As of 2019, 759 million people still had no access to electricity, and significant gaps remain between urban and rural access. About 2.6 billion people are still without access to clean cooking solutions. While global investments in renewable energy capacity increased by 2% to US\$ 303.5 billion in 2020, on our current trajectory the share of all renewables is projected to rise only to around 21.5% of total final energy consumption by 2030, from 17.1% in 2018. Non-electricity end-use sectors such as heat, cooling and transport are lagging far behind. Annual efficiency improvement is projected to reach only 2% between 2018 and 2030, far short of the 3% needed to achieve the target.

The Briefs also point out that the COVID-19 pandemic presents an unexpected opportunity for both advancing sustainable energy goals and reducing social and economic inequality. The economic and social shock of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis has understandably drawn attention away from long-term sustainability plans and investments, and in some areas even reversed recent gains on energy access. However, with strategic planning and collaboration, governments can use this otherwise tragic time as a catalyst for 'building back better', leveraging their pandemic-related economic stimulus packages to scale up investments in sustainable energy solutions for a 'just transition' that will support new employment opportunities and more equitable societies.

Indeed, investing in a green recovery would create 5.5 million more jobs in renewable energy, energy efficiency and system flexibility by 2023. Renewable energy jobs could reach almost 30 million by 2030, with another 40 million jobs in energy efficiency and system flexibility. Including SDG7 targets in recovery plans can help shift the energy sector and the workforce to a more sustainable trajectory in the long term.

Moreover, the Policy Briefs highlight the need to capitalise on the global momentum towards net-zero emissions in order to advance SDG7 action in pursuit of the 1.5°C goal in the Paris Agreement. While a significant number of countries have now committed to net-zero emissions by 2050, current levels of ambition related to sustainable energy as reflected in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are not yet in line with a net-zero emissions trajectory by 2050.

The time is now to establish bold policy action facilitating a faster transition to more accessible, affordable and sustainable energy systems.

With the release of this year's Policy Briefs, the SDG7 TAG calls on all Member States and other stakeholders to drive the global energy transformation forward by forming transformational partnerships. UN entities, international organizations and multilateral development banks, as well as businesses, civil society, science, cities and regional governments, and other stakeholders, are urged to step up and strengthen their efforts to support the implementation of the SDGs with SDG 7 at the heart.

More information about the Technical Advisory Group can be found [here](#).

The full text of the 2021 SDG7 Policy Briefs can be found [here](#).

For more information, contact the Secretariat for the High-level Dialogue on Energy at [Energy2021@un.org](mailto:Energy2021@un.org)