

LEADERS SET THE STAGE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF NEW DATA AND ANALYTICS IN SUPPORT OF ACCELERATING PROGRESS ON SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

A launch event was held on 1 June at UN Headquarters in New York to present the critically important findings of **Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2022**, as well as the **SDG7 Policy Briefs** on interlinkages of energy with other SDGs.

The event presentations gave a comprehensive look at where we stand based on the latest energy data available, against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and the triple crisis of food, energy and finance generated by the conflict in Ukraine. The launch was co-hosted by the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy (Denmark, Ethiopia, Norway, Pakistan) as an input to the High-level Political Forum coming up in July, as well as a moment to take stock on the road to implementing the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action coming out of the 2021 High-level Dialogue on Energy.

Moderating the event, **H.E. Mr. Mohammad Aamir Khan, Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the UN**, kicked off the global launch of the 8th edition of the *Tracking SDG7* report and the 5th edition of the *SDG7 Policy Briefs*. Mr. Khan noted that the Policy Briefs, entitled "Addressing energy's interlinkages to other SDGs", are the first step towards creating a global framework for tracking progress on SDG interlinkages. The two knowledge products also mark a critical halfway point towards the deadline for the 2030 Agenda, he said. With the world currently far from reaching its global climate targets under the Paris Agreement, Mr. Khan concluded his opening remarks by stating that the international community must come together to redouble its efforts to ensure that energy fulfils its key role in sustainable development and to curb global emissions.



Reflecting on the messages of the publications and the current situational multi-dimensional crisis on energy that the world faces, **H.E. Mr. Yoseph Kassaye Yoseph, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the UN and Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy**, noted that although some progress has been achieved in terms of access to electricity, it could very likely be reversed unless immediate action is taken. The inclusion of a full chapter dedicated to international financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy was greatly welcomed and a concluding call was made for the continued strengthening of international support to achieve universal and sustainable energy for all.

In her keynote address, **H.E. Ms. Anne Beathe Tvinnereim, Norway's Minister of International Development**, commended the important work of the SDG 7 custodians and Technical Advisory Group, stating that "we now see the weakness and vulnerabilities of an energy system reliant on the fuels of the 20th century." She highlighted the urgency of raising access to the top of the energy agenda while noting the interlinkages with food, employment and gender. Norway expressed its continued commitment to the energy transition by doubling its climate finance to 14 billion Norwegian Kroner by 2026 and establishing a new climate investment fund to finance renewable energy in developing countries.





Mr. LIU Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, noted that at a time in which strong action towards achieving SDG 7 is needed more than ever, we are experiencing a slow-down in progress on most targets. Mr. Liu added that the world simply cannot afford hesitation on energy action and that we therefore must counteract these developments and swiftly implement the outcomes of the High-level Dialogue on Energy, including the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 Action. Energy action must also be designed to effectively deliver much-needed co-benefits in other areas of sustainable development and in climate change mitigation and adaptation. For this, Mr. Liu stated that we must gain a better understanding of SDG interlinkages.

Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy Co-Chair, stressed the importance of the SDG 7 Tracking Report, referring to it as the "gold standard" that shows us how far we've come, and how much further we need to go. According to the report findings, as of 2020, 733 million people remain without access to electricity, with close to 80 per cent of these people located in Africa. In addition, 2.4 billion people – one-third of the world's population – lack access to clean cooking solutions. Ms. Ogunbiyi stressed that we cannot separate climate from sustainable energy, and that people must be placed first at the heart of the energy transition.



Ms. Usha Rao-Monari, Under-Secretary-General and Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, reminded participants that a "business as usual" approach is not working and it is time to do things differently, perhaps disruptively. She stated that the biggest challenge is to ensure that the transformation of the global energy market towards a low carbon and net-zero pathway is fast enough to achieve the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, and leave no one behind. Stating that we need to rethink how we design our economy, Ms. Rao-Monari suggested that circular economy approaches can help countries accelerate their transition to more inclusive and sustainable societies. Understanding specific circumstances and contexts facing countries, she said that UNDP is promoting tailored support such as through the African mini-grid programme, and is advocating the need for greater engagement from the international community and private sector to assist developing countries in achieving SDG 7.

H.E. Ms. Marie-Louise Koch Wegter, Deputy Permanent Representative of Denmark to the UN and Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy, closed the meeting by highlighting that today's energy security crisis is linked to our dependence on fossil fuels. She expressed concern that some countries as well as some parts of the UN system are calling for an expansion of production of gas and fossil fuels that runs contrary to our climate commitments. Ms. Koch Wegter emphasized the findings of the SDG 7 Tracking Report that indicate that the approaches best-suited to achieving universal access are also advantageous for reaching net-zero emissions in a just and inclusive way. In concluding, Ms. Koch Wegter stated that we must use the current crisis to accelerate the transition to renewable energy.

