

## 2022 ENERGY PROGRESS REPORT SHOWS WE MUST DRASTICALLY STEP UP OUR EFFORTS OR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SDG 7 WILL SLIP OUT OF REACH

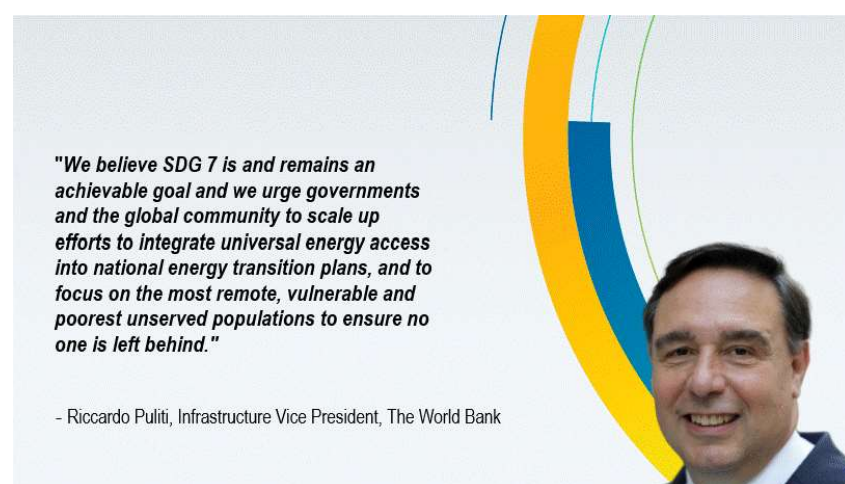
### Latest Data Show Slowdown in Progress towards Universal Energy Access and Drop in International Financing for Clean Energy

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a key factor in slowing progress towards universal energy access, according to the 2022 edition of [Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report](#), launched at the UN on 1 June. At the same time, the report also finds that renewable energy was the only energy source to grow through the pandemic. However, this positive global and regional trajectory has left behind countries most in need of electricity.

According to the latest data, globally 733 million people still have no access to electricity, and 2.4 billion people still cook using fuels detrimental to their health and the environment. At the current rate of progress, 670 million people will remain without electricity by 2030 – 10 million more than projected last year.

The impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on energy have been compounded in the last few months by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has led to uncertainty in global oil and gas markets and has sent energy prices soaring. Advances in SDG 7 have been impeded particularly in the most vulnerable countries and those already lagging in energy access. Nearly 90 million people in Asia and Africa who had previously gained access to electricity, can no longer afford to pay for their basic energy needs. Sub-Saharan Africa's share of the global population without electricity jumped to 77 per cent in 2020 from 71 per cent in 2018 whereas most other regions saw declines in their share of the access deficits.

Adding to these negative trends, international public financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy decreased for the second year in a row, falling to US\$10.9 billion in 2019, despite the immense needs for sustainable development in most countries and growing urgency of climate change.



The 2022 edition of the *Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report* was launched by **Mr. Riccardo Puliti, Vice President for Infrastructure, World Bank**, the Chair of the event. In launching the report, the SDG 7 custodian agencies -- the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO) -- urged the international community and policymakers to safeguard gains toward SDG 7; to remain committed to continued action towards affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all; and to maintain a strategic focus on countries needing the most support.

Presentations by the SDG7 indicator custodians were given by (left to right in photo): **Ms. Gabriela Elizondo Azuela, Practice Manager, Energy Climate Finance and ESMAP Infrastructure VPU, World Bank**; **Mr. Stefan Schweinfest, Director, UNSD**; **Ms. Laura Cozzi, Chief Energy Modeler, IEA**; **Ms. Maria Neira, Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO**; and **Ms. Rabia Ferroukhi, Director of the Knowledge, Policy and Finance Centre, IRENA**.

The 2022 *Tracking SDG 7 Report* can be read and downloaded at: <https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org>

