

Highlights of SDG Pavilion at COP24

3-14 December 2018

About the SDG Pavilion at COP24

The SDG Pavilion at the UN Climate Change Conference, COP24, in Katowice, Poland, aimed to provide a platform for interactive dialogues to share experiences and ideas on how best to leverage policies, programmes, multi-stakeholder action and partnerships to advance both the SDGs and climate action in ways to maximize benefits and leave no one behind. The pavilion was jointly organised by UN DESA and GEIDCO. [Read more](#)

#SDGPavilion at #COP24 in Poland

Facebook: fb.com/sustdev

Twitter: www.twitter.com/sustdev

Info: bit.ly/COP24DESA

Monday, 3 December

17:00 – 18:00

The role of ethics and human awareness in climate change solutions

Organized by Brahma Kumaris with support from DESA

Venue SDG Pavilion E-34

A shift in awareness is needed to promote changes in behavior and lifestyles to foster low emissions and climate resilient development. Faith-based communities and others, are building momentum to address the strengthening of personal and political will to fulfill the responsibilities of our time. The session included remarks by Golo J. Pilz, Energy Adviser to the Brahma Kumaris and Head of India-One solar thermal power plant, Viktor Josa, Project Co-Director at CliMates, Sonja Ohlsson, Brahma Kumaris, Focal Point for UNFCCC, and Malte Hentschke from Klima Allianz.

Tuesday, 4 December

12:00 – 13:00

Promoting synergies between the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, the Paris Agreement and the SDGs

Organized by UN DESA

Venue SDG Pavilion E-34

UN DESA's UN Forum on Forests Secretariat is promoting the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030, a global effort towards halting deforestation, forest degradation and expanding the world's forests, which serve as an important carbon sequestration mechanism. Poland, which holds the presidency of COP24, considers forests a priority issue and an integral part of implementing the Paris Agreement and achieving climate neutrality. A Ministerial Declaration on Forests for Climate is expected to be one of three such declarations to be adopted in Katowice. Moderated by Alexander Buck of IUFRO, the event included remarks by UN DESA chief Liu Zhenmin, Poland Environment Minister Henryk Kowalczyk, Brazil's chief climate change negotiator Jose Antonio Marcondes de Carvalho, and UN Environment expert Niklas Hagelberg.

14:30 – 15:00

Energy in VNRs in 2018: Launch of the "Analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews relating to SDG 7"

Organized by UN DESA

Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) conducted an analysis of the 46 voluntary national reviews (VNRs) submitted in 2018 in order to gain a better understanding of the incorporation of SDG7 in countries' sustainable development action plans, challenges and opportunities in implementation and critical interlinkages with other Sustainable Development Goals. On Tuesday, the Analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews relating to SDG7 was officially launched by Mr Liu Zhenmin, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General, at the SDG Pavilion. The launch event also included a brief introduction to the report by Minoru Takada, team leader for sustainable energy in DESA's Division for SDGs. [Full Report](#)

17:40 – 19:10

Launching Ceremony of the Global Network “Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions”

Organized by UN DESA and ITIAPU

Venue: Space Brazil

On Tuesday, 4 December 2018, USG Liu Zhenmin launched the Global Network “Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions”, together with Mr. Mario Antonio Cecato, Executive Financial Director, ITAIPU, Brazil and Ms. Monica Perez dos Santos, Financial Director, ITAIPU, Paraguay. The global sustainability network on SDG 6 and SDG 7 interlinkages, will consist of a large number of multi-stakeholders who really care about the subject and promote an integrated approach to SDG 6 and SDG 7 in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The main objectives of the network will be to share best practices, experiences and quality data; strengthen capacity building; mobilise and scale up multi-stakeholder action; and enhance advocacy, communications and outreach. [Read more](#)

Wednesday, 5 December

9:30 – 11:00

Side event on “Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions”

Organized by UN DESA and ITIAPU

Venue: MCK theater - Climate Action Rooms 1

On 5 December, UN DESA co-organized with Itaipu Binational at COP 24 a side event entitled “Sustainable water and energy solutions as integrated response to climate change”. The event included high-level remarks by Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, UNDESA, Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC, the Financial Directors of Itaipu Paraguay, Ms. Monica Perez dos Santos, and Brazil, Mr. Mario Antonio Cecato, as well as Ms. Teresa Solana Méndez de Vigo, Ministry of Ecological Transition, Spain. The event highlighted the interlinkages between water (SDG 6), energy (SDG 7) and climate change (SDG 13). Speakers shared policies, business models and programs with an integrated approach to water and energy as adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change. Furthermore, necessary technologies and good practices to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement at different levels were presented. [Read more](#)

11:00 – 11:15

Announcement of the Global Conference on Synergies between 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement

Organized by UN DESA and UNFCCC Secretariat

Venue: MCK theater - Climate Action Rooms 1

On Wednesday, the SDG Pavilion saw the announcement of the first global conference on synergies between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. Organized jointly by UN DESA and UNFCCC secretariat, the Conference, planned for March in 2019, will focus on implementation at the global, regional and country levels and bring together experts from both developing and developed countries, as well as international resource persons from academia and think tanks, the private sector, NGOs and representatives of relevant UN organizations.

Thursday, 6 December

9:30 – 10:30

DESA ITAIPU Partnership side event

Organized by UN DESA

Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

To mobilize and scale up multi-stakeholder action towards this goal, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and ITAIPU Binacional launched the Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network on 4 December at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP24) in Katowice, Poland. Organized by UN DESA and ITAIPU Binacional, this side event focused on policies, business models and programs with an integrated approach to water and energy as adaptation and mitigation strategies to climate change. [Read more](#)

11:00 – 11:45

Innovation and Sustainable energy for LDCs

Organized by Intellectual Ventures with support from DESA

Venue : SDG Pavilion E-34

Energy is key to global development, but the world's poorest and most vulnerable nations fare up to six times worse than their more industrialized counterparts when it comes to accessing this vital resource. With limited at scale local renewable energy producing and training facilities, panelists discussed the role of the private sector, the value of innovation to LDCs and the investment gaps. Moderated by Daniel Shepard, Senior Officer, Department of Information, United Nations, the session is joined by Megan Bettilyon, Director of Renewable Energy & Special Projects at Global Good, and Minoru Takada, Team Leader for Sustainable Energy, Division for Sustainable Development Goals at UN DESA.

12:00 – 12:45

Investing in Education for the future of sustainable energy

Organized by Intellectual Ventures with support from DESA

Venue : SDG Pavilion E-34

For the past twenty years, the renewable energy industry has expanded exponentially. To seize the opportunity to transition to a sustainable society powered by renewable energy, we have a responsibility to prepare and train the next generation of scientists, engineers, and technicians to create responsible energy policies and implement new renewable energy technologies that support economic growth and access to energy for all. Speakers included Megan Bettilyon, Director of Renewable Energy & Special Projects at Global Good, Yassir Eddebbbar, Osinachi Akoju and Tashiana Osbourne from Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego, and Holden Leslie-Bole from Carbon Institute.

13:30 – 14:30

High-Level Dialogue on Climate, Energy & Health nexus

Organized by WHO with support from DESA

Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

Organized by WHO with support from DESA, this event discussed stepped-up actions on a range of closely linked sustainable energy and health solutions to create strong multiplier effects to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. "Climate change is a very acute medical emergency. It's unacceptable that people are dying from air pollution and that prices for health care are up because more people have chronic diseases." said Dr Maria Neira, Director of WHO's Department of Public Health. [Watch now](#)

17:00 – 18:00

Multi-Stakeholder Involvement in NDC Implementation

Organized by SNV Netherlands with support from DESA
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

To ensure that NDC implementation is transformative, inclusive and sustainable, it is essential to bring together stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society in addressing the complex challenges ahead. This session focused on multi-stakeholder involvement in the NDC implementation processes in two countries: Kenya and Burkina Faso. Moderated by Dr. Rianne Teule, Senior Energy Advisor, SNV, this session included remarks by Dr. Charles Mutai, National Climate Change Directorate, Kenya Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Dr. Joel Korahire, Permanent Secretary of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Burkina Faso Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change, Hellen Kuria, Senior Programme Management Officer, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, Charles Didace Konseibo, Head of Research & Technology, Centre Ecologique Albert Schweitzer (CEAS), Burkina Faso, and others.

Friday, 7 December

9:00 – 10:00

Achieving universal energy access in the context of the wider sustainable development agenda

Organized by IEA
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

Organized by International Energy Agency (IEA), the session focused on achieving universal energy access in the context of the wider sustainable development agenda, particularly focusing on strategies for achieving energy access as a part of a low-carbon future. The discussion was draw on analysis behind the World Energy Outlook's Sustainable Development Scenario, a benchmark scenario to achieve three energy-related sustainable development goals - providing universal energy access, reducing air pollution and related health implications, and tackling climate change. [Watch now](#)

10:30 – 11:30

Strong Voices from the South: How Media Can Enhance Sustainable Development while Combating Climate Change

Organized by HIVOS/ENERGIA
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

Joined by journalists from Malawi, Zimbabwe and Nepal that report on issues like clean cooking, deforestation, the extraction of fossil fuels and the uptake of decentralized renewable energy, this session shared insights on how media can enhance sustainable development while combating climate change.

13:30 – 14:30

Improving Multi-Level Governance through Better Reporting: Accelerating renewable energy uptake

Organized by REN21
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

This event illustrated how a continuous data collection process at the global, regional and city levels can improve multi-level governance to support the energy transformation with renewables. Discussions highlighted, among others, energy in cities, the future of the transport sector and roles of REN21. [Watch now](#)

16:00 – 17:00

How are the Communities of Ocean Action Addressing Climate Change

Organized by UN DESA
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

The United Nations has launched nine thematic multi-stakeholder Communities of Ocean Action (COAs) to follow-up on the implementation of the nearly 1,400 voluntary commitments made at the 2017 UN Ocean Conference. This event focused on the work of several COAs, showing how sustainable ocean management is helping alleviate the negative impacts of climate change. H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, joined the event and delivered keynote remarks. The event also included remarks by Mr. Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary, IOC, and Assistant Director General, UNESCO, Ms. Susan Ruffo, Managing Director, International Initiatives, Ocean Conservancy Mr. Manuel Barange, Director of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Resources Division, FAO, Mr. Ali Raza Rizvi, Programme Manager, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, IUCN, Ms. Tamara Thomas, Ocean Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy, and Ms. Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor for the Americas, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat. [Watch now](#)

Saturday, 8 December

12:00 – 13:00

Accelerating SDG7 achievement:

In depth presentation and discussions of the “Analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews relating to SDG 7 in 2018 and the work of the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group to support 2019 HLPF and other processes

Organized by UN DESA and the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) conducted an analysis of the 46 voluntary national reviews (VNRs) submitted in 2018 in order to gain a better understanding of the incorporation of SDG7 in countries' sustainable development action plans, challenges and opportunities in implementation and critical interlinkages with other Sustainable Development Goals. On Tuesday, the Analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews relating to SDG7 was officially launched by Mr Liu Zhenmin, UN DESA's Under-Secretary-General, at the SDG Pavilion. This session included comprehensive presentation of the analysis of the VNRs relating to SDG7 in 2018. The work of the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group to support 2019 HLPF and other process was also presented. [Full Report](#) [Watch now](#)

13:30 – 14:30

Researching and Advocating for Climate Action, Equity, and Global Justice: Food for Our Future

Organized by Colorado State University
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

15:00 – 16:30

Launch Event for Report on Gender, Climate Change, and Human Mobility

Organized by Gender Equality and Environment
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

Monday, 10 December

11:30 – 12:30

Rethink development finance for climate: An in-depth look at energy access in sub-Saharan Africa

Organized by OECD (GEIDCO)
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

Organized by OECD, with support from GEIDCO, this session took an in-depth look at the energy access in sub-Saharan Africa and showcased how countries, in partnership with international organizations, financial institutions and private sector, are accelerating the clean energy transition and combating climate change.

13:30 – 15:00

Transformation of the Mining and Energy Sectors: Modernization of Infrastructure and the Role of Fossil Fuels in the Transition towards Green Economy

Organized by UNECE (GEIDCO)

Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

The development and deployment of clean technologies and their interplay with existing infrastructure lie at the heart of options that are available to build the future energy system over the medium term, especially as about 80% of today's energy is fossil-based. Organized by UNECE, this session discussed the role of fossil fuels in the transition towards green economy and ways forward.

Tuesday, 11 December

9:00 – 12:00

Green energy -- the way to deal with climate change and International cooperation on clean energy

Organized by Chinese Renewable Energy Industry Association (GEIDCO)

Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

Organized by Chinese Renewable Energy Industry Association, together with the non-governmental international organization GEIDCO (Global Energy Interconnection Development and Cooperation Organization), this event discussed the trend of low carbon development, the extensive use of renewable energy resources and a clean energy trading mechanism that can support the implementation of the Paris Agreement. This event also emphasized the importance of international cooperation on clean energy.

13:00 – 14:30

Energy Interconnection: Advancing Energy Transition for Sustainable Development

Organized by GEIDCO and IEA

Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

Coping with the challenges of climate change, environment pollution and energy security, this session discussed the relevant technologies and mechanisms for the building GEI to accelerate energy transition, facilitate clean energy development and promote clean electricity. This session was co-organized by GEIDCO and IEA.

17:00 – 18:00

AOSIS Climate Change Fellowship Program: An Innovative Approach to Capacity-building

Organized by AOSIS

Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

Co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy of the Republic of Maldives, the Ministry of Forestry Fisheries Sustainable Development and the Environment of Belize and the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, this session showcased the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Fellowship Programme as a successful Partnership and Capacity Building Programme for small island developing states (SIDS).

Wednesday, 12 December

9:00 – 10:00

Building Global Energy Interconnection to Promote 2030 Agenda

Organized by GEIDCO and UN DESA
Venue : SDG Pavilion E-34

Moderated by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Professor of the Columbia University and Secretary-General's Special Advisor on SDGs, this session focused on building global energy interconnection in support of the 2030 Agenda. Ms. Fekitamoeloa 'Utoikamanu, UN-OHRLS, joined this event and delivered remarks. Speakers also included Mr. Bi Yaxiong, Vice President of China Southern Power Grid Corporation, Mr. Minoru Takada, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN-DESA, Mr. Riccardo Puliti, Senior Director for Energy and Extractives, World Bank, Mr. Yang Kun, Deputy Secretary General of China Electricity Council and Mr. Christian Ruby, Secretary-General of Eurelectric.

13:00– 14:30

Climate Leadership in Uncertain Times and the Mobilization of Finance

Organized by Atlantic Council with support from DESA
Venue : SDG Pavilion E-34

The Atlantic Council, in partnership with the University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and Climate Advisers organized a discussion on 'Climate Leadership in Uncertain Times and the Mobilization of Finance'. Introduced by David Koranyi, Senior Fellow for Energy Diplomacy, Atlantic Council Global Energy Center and Consultant for Energy Policy Analysis, Sustainable Energy Team, UN DESA and moderated by Minoru Takada, Team Leader, Sustainable Energy Team, UN DESA, the discussion included a presentation of main conclusions of an Atlantic Council report on Climate Leadership in Uncertain Times by Joshua Busby, Associate Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas-Austin. Arunabha Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) and Peter Graham, Managing Director of Policy and Research, Climate Advisers also joined the discussion.

15:00 – 16:30

Loss and Damage, the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda

Organized by OHRLS
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

The event, through a moderated high-level discussion, focused on the linkages between the climate negotiations process and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while taking account of the preparations for the Mid-Term Review of the SAMOA Pathway and the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit, which is to take place in September 2019.

17:00 – 18:00

Capacity building for informing the transition to low-carbon energy systems

Organized by IAEA
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

This side event investigated the role of capacity building to support decision makers in their efforts to shape their countries' energy future. It also discussed related challenges and consider the role of the United Nations and other international organisations to support countries in overcoming them. Moderated by Aliko van Heek, Unit Head of IAEA, the session included remarks by Minoru Takada, Team Leader of Sustainable Energy at UN DESA, Wei Huang, Director from IAEA, Manuel Welsch, Energy Planner & Economist of IAEA, Dolf Gielen, Director at IRENA, Linus Mofor, Senior Environment Affairs Officer from UNECA, and Ashraf Kraidy, Planning Director, RCREEE/UNIDO.

Thursday, 13 December

13:15 – 14:15

African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI)

Organized by Center for 21st Century with support from DESA
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

The African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) is a transformative, Africa-owned and Africa-led inclusive effort to accelerate and scale up the harnessing of the continent's huge renewable energy potential. AREI is firmly anchored in the context of sustainable development and climate change. Organized by the Women and Gender Constituency (WGC) and Centre for 21st Century Issues (C21st), and supported by the European Commission, this event included a presentation on biomass energy projects and a panel discussion on gender and human rights aspects of biomass energy.

15:00 – 16:15

Advancing Forest-Based Climate Action: Interlinkages between the Nationally-determined Contributions (NDCs) and Voluntary National Contributions (VNCs)

Organized by UN DESA
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

The role of sustainably managed forests in climate change mitigation and adaptation is undeniable. Forests affect rainfall patterns and support freshwater availability, provide wood for fuel and other human needs, are home to 80% of terrestrial biodiversity, sequester carbon and offset greenhouse gas emissions. The SDG pavilion featured a forest event to showcase forest-based actions to combat climate change through coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, and the UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030. This event included high-level remarks by Mr. Boris Greguška, Chair of UNFF14, and Mr. Andrzej Konieczny, Director General, State Forests of Poland. Speakers also included Mr. Koji Hongo, Deputy Director-General, Forestry Agency of Japan, Mr. Gerhard Dieterle, Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Mr. Martin Frick, Senior Director for Policy and Programme Coordination, UNFCCC Secretariat, and Mr. Hans Friederich, Director General, International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR).

Friday, 14 December

12:00 – 13:00

Renewable energy providing opportunities for smallholder farmers to survive and thrive

Organized by Practical Action with support from DESA
Venue: SDG Pavilion E-34

Despite producing a huge proportion of the world's food, smallholder farmers are increasingly vulnerable to climate change. Yet, climate-friendly energy access solutions offer an opportunity for smallholders to provide for their families and communities now and in the future. This event explored how to stimulate smallholder communities' demand for energy and the particular role of renewable energy in providing power for irrigation, cold storage and crop processing - enabling smallholder farmers to thrive.