

## **SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group Meeting**

*14 January 2024, 10:30 - 12:30 GST (Abu Dhabi Time)*

IRENA Headquarters, Abu Dhabi (hybrid meeting)

### **SDG7 TAG Meeting Summary**

The SDG7 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting, held at IRENA headquarters in Abu Dhabi, served as a pivotal platform to discuss the upcoming review of SDG7 at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2026. The meeting focused on identifying strategies to achieve universal energy access, support just energy transitions, and integrate SDG7 into broader sustainable development agendas.

#### **1. Welcome by Host**

Ms. Gauri Singh, Deputy Director-General of IRENA, welcomed participants and emphasized the significance of the SDG7 TAG in advancing global energy access and transition goals. She highlighted some of the key challenges and opportunities for collaboration.

#### **2. Opening Remarks by Co-Facilitators**

Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk, Special Envoy, Climate and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway and Ms. Sheila Oparaocha, Executive Director, ENERGIA, highlighted key takeaways from recent IRENA Assembly discussions, emphasizing the urgency of addressing rising energy demand, growing emissions, and slow progress toward SDG7 targets. They called for inclusive energy transitions underpinned by strong partnerships among governments, civil society, and the private sector. The agenda was adopted without amendments, guiding discussions on key milestones and strategic actions.

#### **3. From the Summit of the Future Towards SDG7 Review at HLPF 2026 SDG Summit in 2027, and other important milestones**

The Secretariat open the discussion with a short review of the key milestones and upcoming opportunities. TAG members were invited to provide their strategic inputs on the work of the SDG7. The following themes reflect the collective priorities and challenges identified during the discussion:

- **SDG7 TAG Membership:**  
Several interventions highlighted the need to expand SDG7 TAG membership to include more developing countries, donors, and private sector representatives. Enhanced involvement from regional institutions, particularly from Africa and Asia, was also deemed crucial to strengthening representation and amplifying impact.
- **Increasing the Impact of the SDG7 Policy Briefs:**  
The group highlighted the need for the SDG7 Policy Briefs to support effective storytelling and narrative-building to garner public and political support. The SDG7 Policy Briefs could be used more strategically to shape global dialogues also beyond the HLPF including the upcoming M300 Africa Energy Summit, the Second Global Conference on Air Pollution and Health, the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development, the International Vienna Climate and Energy Forum,

SDG7 Action Forum, G20, COP, and the Regional Consultations among others, as to mainstream energy access and transitions. The SDG7 Policy Briefs are an excellent tool to prepare for the upcoming discussions on a post-2030 agenda. It was suggested to use AI to track the impact of the SDG7 Policy Briefs. The option of organizing webinars around the SDG7 Policy Briefs was also mentioned.

- **Improving Data Quality and Utility:**

Participants stressed the need for accurate, reliable data, particularly in data-poor regions like sub-Saharan Africa. Suggestions included conducting stakeholder workshops and developing a standardized "cheat sheet" framework to ensure consistent data usage and decision-making.

#### **4. The SDG7 Policy Briefs (2025–2026)**

The Secretariat presented an update on the SDG7 Policy Brief 2025-2026, including a work-in-progress table of the drafting organizations and launch events. So far, the list includes planned launches of SDG7 Policy Briefs at the LDC Future Forum, the World Health Assembly, the Vienna Climate and Energy Forum, SDG7 Action Forum, G20 Energy Ministerial, COP30, and IRENA Assembly, with more to be added.

For HLPF 2025, the SDG7 TAG will produce four policy briefs on SDG3 (health), SDG5 (gender), SDG8 (employment), and vulnerable groups (LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS), alongside key messages for policymakers and a review of the 2025 Tracking SDG7 report. For HLPF 2026, the SDG7 TAG will compile a comprehensive set of policy briefs highlighting SDG7's connections to all other SDGs.

#### **5. Update on Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report**

IRENA, as the lead custodian for the 2025 SDG7 Tracking Report, provided updates on data collection and progress. They committed to adhering to timelines to ensure key data informs the development of policy briefs. Discussions highlighted the need to address data gaps in regions with limited capacity and to refine indicators for post-2030 frameworks.

#### **6. International Day of Clean Energy**

The Secretariat informed on the plans for the International Day of Clean Energy 2025. Since 26 January is a Sunday, communications efforts will focus on 23 January. That day, a dedicated event will be convened by DESA, supported by UN-Energy, and co-hosted by the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Energy as to create awareness and foster global collaboration. The event will be web streamed on UN WebTV. Participants recognized the International Day as an opportunity to raise awareness and inspire tangible action.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

The Joint Statement on Sustainable Bioenergy for Climate and Development Goals was shared with participants who were invited to join the list of organization which have endorsed the statement.

#### **8. Next Steps & Closing Remarks**

The co-facilitators concluded by reiterating the SDG7 TAG's pivotal role in shaping global energy discourse, preparing for the SDG7 review at HLPF 2026, and influencing the post-2030 energy agenda. The Secretariat will continue to consult with members as to finalize the overview of SDG7 Policy Briefs 2025-2026, including all the drafters, contributors, and launch event schedules, by the end of January.

## ANNEX 1: Concept Note and Agenda

Convened by



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**In-Person Registration starts at 10:00 GST**

## Towards the Review of SDG7 at the HLPF 2026

At the Summit of the Future, world leaders agreed on the Pact of the Future, committing to concrete actions towards a safer, more peaceful, sustainable and inclusive world for tomorrow's generations, including universal energy access and just energy transition. Building on this strong commitment, the run-up to the third review of SDG7 at the HLPF 2026 will be an opportunity to generate further momentum in support of energy action, while also generating inputs to the SDG Summit 2027 which will consider how we will advance sustainable development also beyond 2030.

The SDG7 TAG will support these efforts by implementing the two-year workplan as agreed towards the review of SDG7 at the HLPF 2026, leveraging the 2025 HLPF as a key milestone. This approach will provide maximum support for keeping energy and its interlinkages central in the relevant global discussions, offering actionable insights and pathways for achieving universal access to sustainable and modern energy in support of sustainable development.

Key elements of the workplan include:

- **Preparations for HLPF 2025:** Delivering targeted policy briefs on the SDGs under review that year, including SDG3 (health), SDG5 (gender), SDG8 (employment), and a brief on the LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS, alongside the *2025 Tracking SDG7 Report* and key policy messages.
- **Preparations for HLPF 2026 and the SDG7 Review:** Compiling a comprehensive set of policy briefs that covers SDG7's interlinkages to all other SDGs.
- **Innovative Launch Strategy for Policy Briefs:** Staggered releases of the individual SDG7 Policy Briefs aligned with relevant events and milestones, as to maximize engagement and visibility.

This meeting will serve to strategize the implementation of the SDG7 TAG's work plan for the next two years, ensuring meaningful contributions to advancing the sustainable development agenda and the critical milestones ahead.

## Draft Agenda

*Group Photo*

**1. Welcome by Host**

- **Ms. Gauri Singh**, Deputy Director-General, IRENA

**2. Opening remarks by the Co-Facilitators**

- **Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk**, Special Envoy for Climate and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
- **Ms. Sheila Oparaocha**, Executive Director, ENERGIA

**3. From the Summit of the Future towards SDG7 review at HLPF 2026, SDG Summit in 2027, and other important milestones**

- **Presentation by the Secretariat**
- **Open discussion**

**4. The SDG7 Policy Briefs 2025 - 2026**

- **Presentation by the Secretariat**
- **Open Discussion**

**5. Update on *Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report***

- **IRENA**

**6. International Day of Clean Energy**

**7. AOB**

**8. Next Steps & Closing**

- **Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk**, Special Envoy, Climate and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway
- **Ms. Sheila Oparaocha**, Executive Director, ENERGIA

*Light Lunch*

**ANNEX II: List of Participants:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Sheila Oparaocha (Co-facilitator)	Hivos/ENERGIA
Hans Olav Ibrekk (Co-facilitator)	Norway (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)
Dymphna van der Lans	Clean Cooking Alliance
Michaela Morese	FAO
Sofja Giljova	GIZ (on behalf of BMZ)
Paul Mbuthi	Kenya
Anthony Kamara	Sierra Leone
Wei Huang, Mohammed Ben Ticha	IAEA
Yasmina Abdelilah	IEA
Gauri Singh, Raul Garcia-Alfario, Ute Collier, Mirjam Reiner, Hanna Guinto	IRENA
Rana Adib	REN21
Hadiza Abdulmumini, Asma Rouabhia	SDG7 Youth Constituency
Igor Litvinyuk (online)	UNECE
Matthew Wittenstein	UNESCAP
Sean Radtka (online)	UNESCWA
Rana Ghoneim	UNIDO
Heather Adair-Rohani	WHO
Sandeep Kohli (in-person), Stephen Halloway (online)	World Bank
William Brent	Husk Power
Martin Niemetz, Dominika Zahrer	Secretariat / UNDESA