

Fifteenth session of the IRENA Assembly

SDG7 on Sustainable Energy: The Road Ahead

11 January 2025, 09:00 – 10:30 GST
St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi

Background

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) – ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all – is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. However, progress toward SDG7 targets, including universal energy access, clean cooking solutions, renewable energy integration, and energy efficiency improvements, remains insufficient. The urgency of addressing the energy-climate nexus has never been clearer, as countries worldwide grapple with energy poverty, rising demand, and the pressing need to rapidly decarbonize their energy systems.

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. Meanwhile, the UN General Assembly decided to extend the promotion of the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All up to 2030. 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.

UN-Energy and the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group (SDG7 TAG) will both support these efforts to advance the SDG7 agenda by mobilizing energy action and bringing together expertise to deliver insights and policy recommendations to guide progress, aligning energy policy with broader sustainable development goals.

Objectives

This side event will provide a platform to discuss how to utilize this opportunity to accelerate progress on SDG7 and to shape a pathway to a collaborative and ambitious energy agenda for the future.

Associated Publications

- Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2024 <https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/>
- President of the UN General Assembly's Call to Action for Further Acceleration of the Implementation of SDG7 Towards 2030 and Beyond: <https://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/108/2024/04/Call-to-Action-Flyer-Final.pdf>

Convened by:



In collaboration with:



PROGRAMME

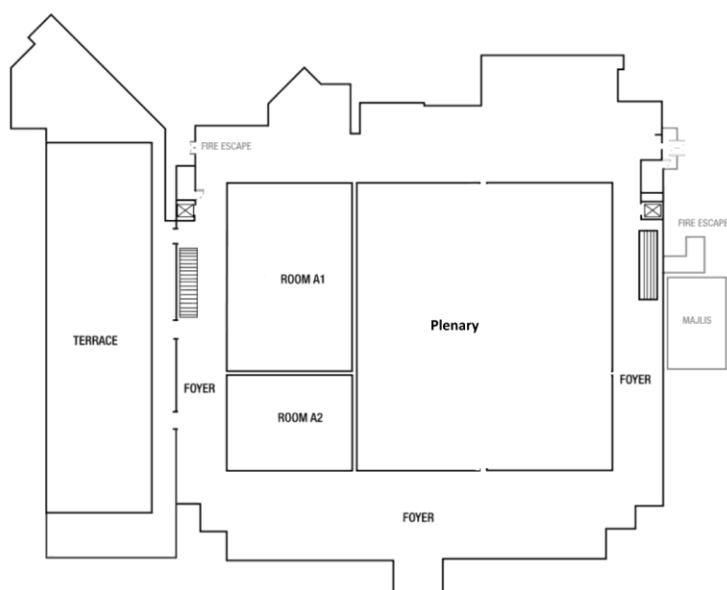
Welcome Remarks	Ms. Gauri Singh, Deputy Director-General, IRENA
Opening Remarks	<p>H.E. Mr. Hans Olav Ibrek, Special Envoy for Climate and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, and co-Facilitator of the SDG7 TAG</p> <p>Mr. Riad Meddeb, Director, Sustainable Energy Hub, UNDP (representing Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of UNDP and Co-Chair of UN-Energy)</p>
Roundtable Discussion	<p>Moderator: Mr. Raul Alfaro-Pelico, Director, KPFC, IRENA</p> <p>Presentation by Mr. Martin Niemetz, Sustainable Development Officer, DESA</p> <p>Mr. Isaac Kiva, Secretary for Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy, Kenya</p> <p>Ms. Mariana de Assis Espécie, Special Advisor at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Brazil</p> <p>Mr. Xiang Li, Division Director for European, North American & Oceanian Affairs, Department of International Cooperation, National Energy Administration of China</p> <p>Ms. Rensie Panda, Manager International Affairs and Community Outreach, National Energy Authority, Papua New Guinea</p> <p>Mr. Stefano Marguccio, Deputy CEO, SEforALL</p> <p>Mr. Keisuke Sadamori, Director, Energy Markets and Security, IEA</p> <p>Ms. Heather Adair-Rohani, Acting Unit Head Air Quality, Energy and Health, WHO</p> <p>Mr. Sandeep Kohli, Senior Energy Specialist, World Bank</p> <p>Ms. Rasha Abdrabu, Industrial Development Expert, UNIDO</p> <p>Ms. Hadiza Abdulmumini, Global Focal Point, SDG7 Youth Constituency</p> <p>Mr. Syed Munir Khasru, Chairman, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance</p>
Closing Remarks	Ms. Sheila Oparaocha, Executive Director, ENERGIA, and co-facilitator of SDG7 TAG

LOGISTICS NOTE

Venue

The 15th session of the IRENA Assembly and related meetings will be held at the St. Regis Hotel in Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, from 11 to 13 January 2025. The Roundtable will take place in room A1 on level 1.

LEVEL 1



Badge issuance

Badges will be issued on 11-13 January 2025 from 08.00 to 17.00 in the registration area (Manhattan lounge) next to the main lobby of the venue, St. Regis Hotel, Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi. All participants are requested to arrive at the St. Regis Hotel on 11 January 2025 by 08.00 to collect badges and locate the event venue. Please allow ample time to collect your badges and navigate to the event venue, as it is quite spacious. Note that breakfast and coffee will be served outside the meeting room.

Contacts on the day

Mirjam Reiner, Programme Officer, IRENA, mreiner@irena.org, +971566891103

Martin Niemetz, Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA, martin.niemetz@un.org, +43 680 2231122

Hannah Guinto, Associate Professional, IRENA, hguinto@irena.org, +971564048370