

Draft Concept Note

SEMINAR ON Mainstreaming Energy Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Targets and Indicators into Statistical Programmes in Select African Countries

ECA Conference Centre
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
27-29 June 2016

**Organized by UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD)
In cooperation with UN-Energy and SE4ALL**

BACKGROUND

At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹ The set of agreed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be implemented for the 2016-2030 period includes a total of 17 SDGs and 169 related targets. SDG7 is a dedicated stand-alone SDG on energy with three major targets and two additional targets representing means of implementation.

Sustainable energy is a key enabler of sustainable development for all countries and all people. Countries will not be able to achieve their development goals without access to reliable and affordable sustainable energy services. Energy is critical to tackling poverty eradication, while decarbonizing energy is central to mitigating climate change. Energy powers opportunities. It transforms lives, economies and countries.

The energy targets, among all of the SDG targets, require a robust follow-up and review mechanism for implementation. A set of indicators are being defined to assess and monitor progress towards sustainable energy for all. The Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) developed a proposed global indicator framework and set of global indicators which was approved by the UN Statistical Commission at its forty-seventh session in March 2016.

The energy SDG, targets, and indicators should take into account the different national realities and energy resources and systems as well as the capacities and levels of development, always considering national priorities. Proposed energy goals and

¹ General Assembly Resolution 70/1, Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/70/L.1 (25-27 September 2015) UNHQ, New York.

corresponding targets at the national level need to address and incorporate in an integrated way the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and their linkages.

The major initiative of the United Nations Secretary General on “Sustainable Energy for All” (SE4ALL) in cooperation with the World Bank, the International Energy Agency and UN agencies including UNDESA, has developed the “Global Tracking Framework” for energy in which issues related to energy statistics, goals, targets, and indicators are being assessed.² The UN Statistics Division and the Division for Sustainable Development of UNDESA and others were also involved in efforts to define energy indicators and statistics for sustainable development. It is now necessary to start developing the specific national programmes on energy goals, targets and indicators based on the priorities for each country for the implementation phase of the 2030 Agenda.

The Division for Sustainable Development of UNDESA in the past has lead research efforts in the elaboration of methodologies and guidelines for the formulation of “Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development.”³ These efforts included implementation, testing and assessment of sets of energy indicators in 7 countries.⁴

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this expert group meeting, with the major focus on Africa, will: (i) address the global energy SDG and targets, and current efforts on energy statistics and indicators by different organizations within the context of the SDGs effort, (ii) assess the needs for adapting global energy SDGs, targets and indicators into national circumstances; and (iii) discuss plans of actions for improving national programmes to incorporate energy SDGs, targets and indicators.

At the conclusion of this expert group meeting, it is anticipated that the African participants will have: (i) enhanced knowledge of global efforts on the definition of energy statistics, indicators, targets and goals; (ii) enhanced understanding of the issues and challenges posed by adapting and implementing energy SDGs, targets and indicators into national circumstances and priorities; and (iii) enhanced knowledge of the needs to modify current programmes to incorporate the new energy SDG and corresponding targets and indicators into national statistical programmes.

² WB/IEA, *Global Tracking Framework, Sustainable Energy for All*, 2015 update.

³ IAEA/UNDESA/UEA/Eurostat/EEA, *Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development: Guidelines and Methodologies*, Vienna, 2005.

⁴ UNDESA/IAEA, *Energy Indicators for Sustainable Development: Country Studies on Brazil, Cuba, Lithuania, Mexico, Russian Federation, Slovakia and Thailand*, New York, 2007.

MEETING LANGUAGE

This event will be conducted in English. Unfortunately due to financial limitations simultaneous interpretation into other official UN languages will not be possible.

LOCATION AND TIME

The event will be held at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The provisional dates are 27 to 29 June 2016. The event will be held over 2 ½ days.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants will include representatives from public organizations (preferably from energy and statistical offices and ministries) and relevant policy makers involved in the research, development, management and implementation of energy statistics and related programmes in select African countries. The workshop will also include expert inputs from UN Statistics Division, IEA, SE4ALL, World Bank, African Union Commission, ECA, African Development Bank and other international organizations.

FOR INFORMATION

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