

Ministerial Declaration: Input on SDG7

Recognise that without urgent action, the world will fall short of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Recognising that achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 will catalyse actions to combat climate change and reach the other Sustainable Development Goals, we emphasise the need for strengthened political will and increased levels of investment and action by all stakeholders to scale up the deployment of renewable energy technologies, increase energy efficiency and make clean energy more affordable for the benefit of all.

We are deeply concerned that about 1 billion people currently live without electricity, while almost 3 billion people lack access to clean-cooking solutions and are exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution, which results in about 4 millions of deaths each year. We strongly call upon governments and all stakeholders to make clean-cooking solutions a top political priority and to close the electricity access gap by establishing detailed plans of action to leave no one behind, especially in the most vulnerable countries, including through cross-border grid connections, on-grid renewable energy solutions and decentralized options.

We are encouraged that the transformation of the world's energy systems is being accelerated by advances in technologies, rapid declines in the cost of renewable energy, policy support, new business models and sharing of best practices. We call upon Governments and other stakeholders to accelerate the pace of transition towards renewable energy, especially in end-use sectors such as transport, buildings and industry and to scale up investments in energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy.

We recognize that the current level of financing is insufficient to meet SDG7 globally and invite all relevant stakeholders to scale up investment and financing aimed at meeting SDG7. We stress the need for scaling up capacity-building, sharing experiences and promoting innovation. Recognizing that sustainable energy access and deployment can both improve and be accelerated by gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, we call upon Governments and other stakeholders to promote women's full, equal and effective participation and leadership in the design and implementation of energy policies and programmes.

We welcome the outcome of the Global SDG7 Conference held in Thailand in February 2018, including a Global Agenda for Accelerated SDG 7 Action, and call upon all stakeholders to turn them into action urgently. We urge that the UN Decade on Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024 should also be leveraged to spur further actions and momentum.

Sources:

- A/RES/72/224: Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- E/2018/64: Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary-General
- Accelerating SDG7 Achievement: Policy Briefs in Support of the First SDG7 Review at the UN High-Level Political Forum 2018
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?page=view&nr=2749&type=13&menu=1634>

- Global SDG7 Conference: Outcome Summary
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17977Outcome_Summary_Global_SDG7_Conference_Feb_20181.pdf
- TRACKING SDG7: THE ENERGY PROGRESS REPORT 2018 - A joint report of the custodian agencies https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/data/files/download-documents/tracking_sdg7-the_energy_progress_report_full_report.pdf
- Summary of the Vienna Energy Forum Special Session 2018:
https://www.viennaenergyforum.org/sites/default/files/vef2018specialsession_summary%20report.pdf