

**Intervention Prepared for the High level dialogue on the  
Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy  
for All 2014-2024**

**23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2019**

**Prepared by Nozipho Wright (Women Major Group) and Caroline  
Usikpedo (NGO / Women Major Group)**

Your Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

My name is Caroline Usikpedo I am speaking on behalf of the Women and NGO major groups.

Access to energy makes communities safer, helps small businesses thrive and powers essential services. Therefore a comprehensive approach to scaling up energy access is critical.

The world is not on track to achieve universal energy access by 2030. As a result, developing countries, particularly in Sub Saharan Africa, are at a great risk of being left behind.

While we have noted that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 - is essential to reach other SDGs, we have identified several gaps and challenges and these are:

1. Lack of policy implementation- the policies are always on paper and they remain there, implementation is always a major challenge for some if not all our governments
2. Lack of Finance - There is little or no financial and technological investments in the sector, social and economic issues such as poverty, lack of political will and wrong approaches in addressing the energy problem still affects the development of the energy sector in developing counties, especially Africa
3. Not Affordable - Energy be it Renewable or dirty has never been affordable, there is a huge tendency of Inequality in access to renewable energy.

4. Large scale power projects prioritized over provision of energy for clean cooking. Large scale energy infrastructure projects do not by nature target the marginalized/ women/ poor rural households.
5. Countries where indoor air pollution appears not to be an issue e.g. open fire cooking, may not feel the urgency to deploy clean cooking solutions.
6. Where women are not involved in paid work, and with gender inequity in social norms and within household decision making, choices for energy often do not prioritise women's time saved

We call for member states and stakeholders to:

1. At Each stage of *energy planning and policy-making* needs to factor in gender dimensions and actively support and advance women's rights to meet SDG 7 and SDG 5
2. *Support clean cooking fuels and technologies*: National governments should be encouraged and supported to demonstrate greater political and financial commitment to ensure that all households switch to clean fuels and stoves.
3. Target poor women specifically - empower them to make energy choices e.g. through providing subsidy on their bank account
4. *Support energy democracy*. Reverse top-down energy production, distribution, and control so that women, households and communities can drive energy interventions and make decisions that work for them.
5. Financial allocations / commitments have to be made for capacity building of women, youth, communities and policy makers to address energy access issues.

Thank you.