

Distr.: General

**ADVANCE UNEDITED VERSION**

14 October 2015

Original: English

**Sixty-ninth session**

Item 20(a) of the provisional agenda\*

**United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All****Report of the Secretary-General\*\****Summary*

One year into the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024 and with the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular goal 7 on energy, just adopted, 2015 provides a historical opportunity for Member States and other stakeholders to strengthen our collective approach to energy. This report describes efforts undertaken to coordinate the activities of the Decade within the United Nations system, and the institutional and accountability arrangements of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, as requested by resolution 69/225. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All coordinates activities related to the Decade on behalf of the Secretary-General and has facilitated discussions related to the institutional arrangements of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The report underlines the need for enhanced international cooperation and strengthened UN system coherence on energy in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7.

---

\* A/70/150

\*\* The present document was submitted late owing to the need for internal consultations.

---

## **I. Introduction**

1. This report is written pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/225, which noted the launch of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All as part of the first annual Sustainable Energy for All Forum, and noted also the initial two-year focus on energy for women, children and health. It further encouraged the rapid implementation of the strategic objectives defined in the global plan of action for the Decade. The General Assembly, in the same resolution, further requested the Secretary-General to prepare, in consultation with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, a report on the activities carried out to mark the Decade, related activities within the United Nations system and the long-term institutional arrangements and accountability arrangements to all stakeholders of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative for submission to the General Assembly at its seventieth session.

## **II. The New Agenda for Transformation: Energy in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

2. 2015 offers a unique opportunity for global leaders and people to end poverty and to transform the world to better meet human needs and the necessities of economic transformation, while protecting our environment, ensuring peace and realizing human rights. Member States have set out through the “*Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”, adopted by General Assembly resolution 69/315, an ambitious, transformational plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, partnerships and peace. At its core lie 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets, representing a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered universal agenda.
3. Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity, and the environment that allows the world to thrive. Energy is a core interest for all countries of the world, and is inextricably linked to many of the global challenges we face. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development fully recognizes the critical importance of

---

energy for sustainable development by establishing a goal and targets on energy (box). Sustainable Development Goal 7 represents a game changer in the global efforts towards ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. It sets out a new global energy agenda accepted by and applicable to all, developed and developing countries alike. The goal and targets are balanced with the three dimensions of sustainable development, captured through the focus on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all**

- 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
- 7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support

- 4. Achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its targets can create significant synergies and simultaneously advance many other Sustainable Development Goals, including poverty eradication, food security, clean water and sanitation, health, education, economic growth, and empowerment of youth and women, while combating climate change. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is fundamental to human development and is also a necessary investment in our collective future.
- 5. A shift toward more efficient and renewable energy solutions is essential for addressing the climate change challenges and sustainable development. Action to achieve this global

---

energy goal must contribute towards limiting the increase in average global temperature to below two degrees Celsius in the long run. Emissions of greenhouse gases from the supply and use of energy are changing the Earth's climate. Climate change threatens food and water security for hundreds of millions of people around the world.

6. The scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires a global partnership to ensure its full implementation. Its ambition must be matched by strong political will and scaled-up action on all fronts by all stakeholders.

### **III. Activities and Momentum in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All**

7. Momentum is growing. In many regions and countries, the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All has played a catalytic role in fostering conversations on energy – and has been recognized as a political priority and action framework through explicit declarations and commitments.
8. To mark the 2<sup>nd</sup> year into the Decade, in May 2015, the second Sustainable Energy for All Forum was convened with over 1,500 leaders across all stakeholder groups, including more than 30 Ministers, gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York under the overall theme of “Financing Sustainable Energy for All.” The Forum featured the first ever Global Energy Ministerial, as well as the launches of the Second Global Tracking Framework and of the global campaign on Energy for Women and Children's Health.
9. Member States have furthered this momentum through a series of resolutions. The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in September 2014, produced the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway (A/69/15) and declared that the Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General, which focuses on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy, complemented by international commitments, provides a useful framework.

- 
10. In the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (69/313), Member States welcomed the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative as a useful framework, including its regional hubs, and the development of action agendas and investment prospectuses at country level. The Agenda also called for action on Sustainable Energy for All's recommendations, with a combined potential to raise over \$100 billion in annual investments by 2020, through market-based initiatives, partnerships and leveraging development banks.
  11. Recognition of the importance of energy is also growing politically. The Energy Ministers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum met in Beijing in 2014 and adopted the "Beijing Declaration - Joining Hands Toward Sustainable Energy Development in the Asia-Pacific Region", in which they reaffirmed the UN "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative.
  12. In 2015, the G20 convened its first Energy Ministers Meeting in Turkey, and adopted the "G20 Energy Access Action Plan: Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Access" that was developed in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and its partners.
  13. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris (COP21) in 2015, the Sustainable Energy for All has been entrusted to work with the International Renewable Energy Agency and other partners, under the auspices of the French COP Presidency, to organize a Thematic Energy Day in the framework of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA).
  14. Multi-stakeholders including governments, business, civil society and international organizations, have also played a significant role in the build-up of action and momentum in support of the Decade.
  15. Such engagements include all regions and a myriad of platforms, including, but not limited to: the Vienna Energy Forum in Vienna; the Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Gujarat; the World Future Energy Summit in Abu Dhabi; the Clean Energy Ministerial; the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit in Delhi; the Pacific Energy and Transport Ministers Meeting in Nadi; the Bloomberg Future of Energy Summit in New York; the Annual Meetings of the African

---

Development Bank in Kigali and Abidjan; the Asia Clean Energy Forum in Manila; the 20th Commonwealth Games in Glasgow; the Ministerial Conference on New Partnerships for Productive Capacity-Building in the Least Developed Countries in Cotonou; the Regional meeting of Sustainable Energy for All in Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago; the Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna; the first Conference on Energy for Development in the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries in Estoril; the World Water Week in Stockholm; the ESCWA Committee meeting on Energy and Water Resources in Amman; and Regional Student Energy Summits across the world. Further activities and events are planned this year in many places, including Kenya and Japan.

16. In 2015, the South Africa International Renewable Energy Conference stressed the importance of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, including the International Renewable Energy Agency as the renewable energy hub within Sustainable Energy for All and the Sustainable Energy for All Africa Hub hosted at the African Development Bank in partnership with the African Union Commission, the New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency and UN Development Programme.
17. Within the UN system, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All has spearheaded the overall coordination and organization of the activities for the Decade, supported by UN-Energy, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, as reported in A/68/309 in response to resolution 68/210 that requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to lead the coordination of the activities of the Decade on behalf of the United Nations system, based on extrabudgetary resources.
18. UN-Energy has played an instrumental role in enhancing coherence across the UN system around the goal and objectives of Sustainable Energy for All. In 2014, UN-Energy published a report summarizing all current and future activities by UN-Energy member organizations in support of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.<sup>1</sup> In

---

<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://www.un-energy.org/publications/13123-activities-un-energy-members-for-the-decade-report>

---

2015, UN-Energy, in cooperation with its member organizations and Sustainable Energy for All, is conducting regional workshops on “Capacity Development for Mainstreaming Energy Sustainable Development Goals, Targets and Indicators into National Statistical Programmes.”

19. UN Regional Commissions, together with the government of Tunisia and in collaboration with UN-Energy, convened the Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development in Hammamet in 2014 where the Executive Secretaries of the five United Nations Regional Commissions reaffirmed that the United Nations is working to help Member States advance universal energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

#### **IV. Institutional and Accountability Arrangements for the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative**

20. The Secretary-General launched the Sustainable Energy for All initiative in 2011, in response to resolution 65/151 that declared 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. The initiative seeks to mobilize action by all stakeholders in support of a major global transformation of energy systems through the achievement of three major objectives: (a) ensuring universal access to modern energy services; (b) doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and (c) doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.
21. The Secretary-General established an Advisory Board for Sustainable Energy for All, co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank Group, which includes distinguished global leaders from governments, business and civil society. Together with an Executive Committee, the Advisory Board provides strategic advice to the initiative.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> More information about the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee can be found at: <http://www.se4all.org/about-us/advisory-board/> and <http://www.se4all.org/about-us/executive-committee/>

---

22. As informed to Member States through A/69/395 and through informal briefings<sup>3</sup>, the Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All has been working towards putting in place long-term institutional structures for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, including the establishment of an international not-for-profit organization by actors external to the United Nations, in the course of 2015. Appropriate arrangements are also being made to ensure continued support within the United Nations to issues related to sustainable energy.

**International not-for-profit organization “Sustainable Energy for All Partnership”**

23. In 2014, the Executive Committee of the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative set up an internal working group composed of actors external to the UN system that delivered its recommendations for the long-term institutional arrangements for Sustainable Energy for All in early 2015.<sup>4</sup> The recommendations included the establishment, by actors external to the United Nations, of an international not-for-profit organization, “the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership” including an overview of its role in facilitating the activities of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. The recommendations were welcomed by the Advisory Board in May 2015.<sup>5</sup>

24. To lead this not-for-profit organization, a selection committee of the Executive Committee (composed of actors external to the UN system) announced on 3 September 2015 the selection of Ms. Rachel Kyte of the United Kingdom as its first Chief Executive Officer.<sup>6</sup>

25. Multi-stakeholder partners external to the United Nations are in the course of establishing a structure for the not-for-profit organization, “Sustainable Energy for All Partnership,” to be headquartered in Austria. This includes the establishment of its membership and its own governing board.

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.un.org/sg/dsg/statements/index.asp?nid=615>

<sup>4</sup> Available at <http://www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SE4All-AB201526.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Available at <http://www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/SE4All-AB201530.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Available at <http://www.se4all.org/2015/09/03/rachel-kyte-to-lead-se4all/>

---

## **UN system support towards the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative**

26. The United Nations will continue to engage in activities in support of the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.
27. First, the Advisory Board will continue to be co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank and, in coordination with the not-for-profit, it will provide overall advice to the initiative. The Government of India has generously offered to host the next Advisory Board meeting in 2016.
28. Second, the United Nations and the not-for-profit organization, “Sustainable Energy for All Partnership” will collaborate and coordinate efforts. The terms of such collaboration will be set forth in a relationship agreement to be concluded by the United Nations and the not-for-profit organization.
29. Third, the Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All will spearhead the UN system’s efforts. The Special Representative will assist the Secretary-General to convene multi-stakeholder meetings, facilitate dialogues, conduct advocacy and outreach, and mobilize resources in support of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.
30. The Secretary-General announced on 3 September 2015 the appointment of Ms. Rachel Kyte as his Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All. The appointment of the Chief Executive Officer of the “Sustainable Energy for All Partnership” as the Special Representative of Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All will ensure close institutional synergies with the not-for-profit organization. These new institutional arrangements will ensure that the United Nations remains closely involved with the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, while affording it the institutional room to thrive as a multi-stakeholder partnership.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> Press Release available at <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sga1590.doc.htm>

- 
31. The Special Representative will ensure that, pursuant to and in accordance with guidelines to be prepared by the UN Ethics Office in consultation with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, no conflicts of interest shall arise between the functions of the Special Representative and those of the Chief Executive Officer of the Sustainable Energy for All Partnership, and that the two roles shall be and shall remain clearly separated. In this respect, the Special Representative shall be fully and solely accountable to the Secretary-General, and only represent the Secretary-General, when acting in this capacity.
32. Through the appointment of the Special Representative, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and its activities will continue to be mainstreamed in the United Nations system and its inter-governmental processes. The Special Representative will be supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs substantively and logistically in coordination with all relevant UN offices, funds, programmes and agencies.
33. The Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustainable Energy for All, administered by UNDP, will continue to support relevant activities of the UN system, including those undertaken by the Special Representative with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through extrabudgetary resources.<sup>8</sup>

### **Harnessing the capacity of existing institutions: Thematic and Regional Hubs for Sustainable Energy for All**

34. In addition to the establishment of the international non-profit organization, to effectively support and strengthen partnerships, a strong network of Thematic and Regional Hubs for Sustainable Energy for All have been established within existing institutions. They offer best practices and leadership capacities in their respective areas to help countries implement the Sustainable Development Goal on energy and other relevant objectives. To-date, these Hubs include:

---

<sup>8</sup> Information on the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustainable Energy for All is available at <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/SEA00>

- 
- a) Africa Hub in the African Development Bank with the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP);
  - b) Asia-Pacific Hub in Asian Development Bank with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UNDP;
  - c) Europe-Central Asia-Mediterranean Hub in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development;
  - d) Latin America and the Caribbean Hub in Inter-American Development Bank with the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean and UNDP;
  - e) Renewable Energy Hub in the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA);
  - f) Energy Efficiency Hub in the Copenhagen Centre on Energy Efficiency with the Government of Denmark, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Technical University of Denmark;
  - g) Energy Efficiency Facilitation Hub in the Energy Conservation Center of Japan;
  - h) Knowledge Management Hub in the World Bank; and
  - i) Capacity Building Hub in The Energy and Resource Institute (TERI).

### **Accountability arrangements**

35. Accountability arrangements of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative will continue to be strengthened. First, the Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework will report on the overall progress towards the objectives of the initiative on a biennial basis. Second, progress on individual voluntary commitments to the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All will be reported regularly based on the conceptual framework presented by its accountability framework. Third, the Advisory Board will continue to provide overall advice and will publicly

---

share their deliberations. Fourth, the up-to-date status of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Sustainable Energy for All is publicly made available through its website. The Special Representative will continue to be the focal point for ensuring that these arrangements are facilitated effectively.

36. The Secretary-General, based on requests from the General Assembly, will report on the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. The Special Representative will ensure that the activities of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, including those related to the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, will be reported through such reports, as well as through regular briefings to Member States.
37. Pursuant to the relationship agreement to be concluded between the United Nations and the “Sustainable Energy for All Partnership,” the Special Representative will also work to ensure that the activities of the United Nations and “Sustainable Energy for All Partnership” are aligned to the broader objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and in support of the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal on energy.

**V. Accelerating Actions in support of SDG7 and the Decade:  
Advocacy, Stakeholder Mobilization, Implementation,  
Monitoring And System-Wide Coordination**

**Tracking progress**

38. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal on energy in all aspects of energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy is fully attainable by 2030, building on many on-going activities and experiences including the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the activities of the Decade. With a concerted effort to scale up successful models, existing technologies, business models, and regulatory best practices, we can produce substantial progress. Accelerated innovation and new technologies will bring further advances. Investments for clean energy now amount to hundreds of billions of dollars annually across developed and developing countries.

- 
39. Yet, much more remains to be done to achieve SDG 7. With a set of global indicators on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy covering over 180 countries, the Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework<sup>9</sup> shows where progress is made and where challenges remain. The work is led by the World Bank and the International Energy Agency, supported by UN-Energy and 20 other organizations. It provides concrete inputs for the on-going work led by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) under the guidance of the UN Statistical Commission.
40. On energy access, there have been notable advances towards access to electricity. In 2012 access to electricity rose to 85 percent of the global population, up from 76 percent in 1990. The number of people without access to electricity in 2012 was 1.1 billion. The rate of electrification in urban areas was 96 percent while in rural areas it was 72 percent. During 2010-2012, an additional 222 million people, mainly in urban areas, gained first time access to electricity globally, well ahead of the 138 million population increase globally. India led the progress, with 55 million people gaining access over this period. Challenges remain, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, where the rates of access to electricity are still low: 35 percent and 79 percent respectively in 2012.
41. Access to clean cooking solutions, by contrast, continues to fall behind population growth, leading to negligible progress overall. Overall, the global access deficit barely moved from 2.9 billion, concentrated in rural areas of Africa and Asia. The annual growth in access to non-solid fuels during 2010-2012 was negative 0.1 percent, comparable to what was registered during the 2000–2010 period, and woefully short of the 1.7 percent target growth rate per year required to reach universal access by 2030. This means that only 125 million additional people - mainly in urban areas- gained first time access to non-solid fuels, falling behind the 138 million population increase that took place over the same period.

---

<sup>9</sup> Available at <http://www.se4all.org/tracking-progress/>

- 
42. On energy efficiency, progress in improving energy efficiency over 2010-2012 was substantial. Primary energy intensity — the global proxy for energy efficiency — improved by more than 1.7 percent a year over 2010-2012, considerably more than in the period 1990–2010. Still, the rate of improvement is two-thirds of the pace needed to reach the target of an average annual 2.6 percent improvement between 2010 and 2030, which is necessary to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.
43. The growth of use of renewable energy continued to accelerate in recent years. The share of renewable energy in the global total final energy consumption grew from 17.8 percent in 2010 to 18.1 percent in 2012. Modern renewables (which exclude solid biofuels used for traditional purposes) grew even more rapidly, at a rate of 4 percent per year. To put it in context, as a reference point, an annual growth rate of 7.5% would be required to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix with modern renewables. During 2010-2012, modern renewable energy power generation accounted for half of all power generation capacity additions globally. East Asia, especially China, led this rapid increase. Declining technology costs have helped foster growth. For example, solar photovoltaic module prices halved between 2010 and 2012.
44. Today's investment flows of \$400 billion a year in support of the energy goal and its targets would need to triple to over a trillion dollar annually to make meaningful progress towards achieving SDG 7.
45. To achieve universal access to electricity, a fivefold increase in capital would be needed - from \$9 billion of actual investment in 2010 to an annual \$45 billion until 2030 according to the International Energy Agency. For modern cooking solutions, the International Energy Agency estimates that a 44-fold increase in capital is required- from \$0.1 billion in 2010 to \$4.4 billion annually until 2030- to achieve universal access to clean cooking solutions.
46. Much greater resources will be required for energy efficiency and renewable energy. To double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency, a quadrupling of current

---

energy efficiency investment is needed, from about \$130 billion in 2012 to an annual average of \$560 billion through 2030. According to the REmap 2030 report by the International Renewable Energy Agency, annual investment in renewable energy will have to be in the order of \$650 billion, a 2.5-fold increase over 2012's investment volume, in order to double the share of renewables globally.

47. Significant opportunities exist to catalyze additional finance and investment. For example, the Sustainable Energy for All's Advisory Board Finance Committee identified in their report from 2015 four broad investment themes that could help mobilize \$120 billion in incremental annual investment by 2020.<sup>10</sup> These include: green-bond market development, structures that use development finance institutions' de-risking instruments to mobilize private capital, insurance products that focus on removing specific risks, and aggregation structures that focus on bundling and pooling approaches for small-scale opportunities.
48. Unlocking existing opportunities requires investment in capacity building and transfer of state-of-the-art knowledge and technologies to countries with less capacity to adopt sustainable energy solutions. Access to clean technologies remains constrained by existing regulation and incentives in many places, by the technical and commercial capacity of institutions and companies, and by a shortage of relevant skills.
49. The nexus between energy and other key areas of development - such as water, food, health, and gender - also presents numerous opportunities that can be harnessed from more holistic decision-making. For example, renewable energy can be either water-efficient or water-intensive. Health gains are obtained from sustainable energy services in community health clinics, through cost-effective and life-saving interventions. Street lighting may increase women's mobility by improving security. Identifying these linkages early can help in targeting synergies and preempting subsequent potential tensions.

---

<sup>10</sup> Available at <http://www.se4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SE4All-Advisory-Board-Finance-Committee-Report.pdf>

---

## Mobilizing, Scaling Up and Accelerating Actions

50. The establishment of SDG 7 provides a unique opportunity to align and scale-up many on-going efforts and spark new action. On-going efforts undertaken within the existing frameworks such as the Decade and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative must be brought in alignment with SDG 7 fully. When taken together, they collectively provide a solid basis for accelerated implementation of this goal.
51. To this end, the Special Representative will lead the United Nations' advocacy and outreach efforts inside and outside of the UN system in the area of energy, including those related to implementation, review and monitoring related to SDG 7, supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
52. All stakeholders must act - businesses, governments, multilateral organizations and civil society. Each can play to its own strengths and interests: improving policies and institutional capacity; supporting technological and value chain innovation; ensuring that public resources are used to maximize the flow of private investment; and stimulating end-user efficiency through education and new delivery models. The Sustainable Energy for All Initiative is the vehicle to bring these different stakeholders together.
53. **The 2014-2024 UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All** represents a global advocacy and outreach platform to grow momentum. Member States called for the rapid implementation of the global plan of action for the Decade and its strategic objectives (69/225), building on the Global Action Agenda of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.
54. **The Sustainable Energy for All Forum** offers a multi-stakeholder global mobilization platform for sharing lessons and mobilizing commitments towards SDG 7. The first Forum in 2014 launched the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024. The second Forum in 2015, convened under the overall theme of "Financing Sustainable Energy for All," featured a first-ever meeting of global energy ministers.

---

55. **The Sustainable Energy for All initiative** represents a global implementation framework in support of SDG 7 and the global plan of action for the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. Its thousands of multi-stakeholder partners from all regions and sectors are already catalysing major new actions and investments towards energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy on the ground. Key achievements of the initiative to-date include:

- a) Action at country level: Over 100 countries, including 85 developing countries, have so far joined Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) as partners. In over 30 countries, partners are currently engaged in the development of national Action Agendas and Investment Prospectuses. Sustainable Energy for All's Regional and Thematic Hubs are playing an instrumental role in this.
- b) Commitments towards universal access to modern energy services: The European Commission and individual European countries are committed in support of sustainable energy for all, including through initiatives such as ElectriFI, to support developing countries in their efforts to reduce energy poverty by more than half a billion people within two decades. Sustainable Energy for All has also signed an Aide Memoire for Cooperation with Power Africa, a US initiative that aims to provide energy access to some 300 million people. New commitments continue to be made, while others are being scaled up.
- c) Promoting energy efficiency: At the 2014 Climate Summit, Sustainable Energy for All launched the Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform, a unique public-private platform for energy efficiency including in appliances, buildings, district energy, industry, lighting and transportation. The platform is an important element of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) and the aim is to launch the Accelerator Platform as the largest global platform on energy efficiency during the Energy Day to be organized at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris.
- d) Promoting renewable energy: The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has launched the Small Island Development States Lighthouse initiative and the African

---

Clean Energy Corridor, which will provide significant assistance for investments in renewable energy in these regions. IRENA, as the SE4All Renewable Energy Hub, has also launched the REmap 2030 report, a roadmap to double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. REmap is being rolled out at country level.

- e) Catalyzing investment: The SE4All Advisory Board's Finance Committee, through work led by the Brazilian Development Bank, Bank of America and the World Bank, identified ways to mobilize an additional \$120 billion a year by 2020 in sustainable energy investments. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development called on all stakeholders to take action in this regard.
- f) Scaling up public and private partnerships: 50 High-Impact Opportunities (HIOs) have been identified to date. Six of these HIOs are currently being operationalized: Clean Energy Mini-Grids, Phase-out of Gas Flaring, Energy and Women's Health, Universal Adoption of Clean Cooking Solutions, Sustainable Bioenergy and the Water-Energy-Food Nexus. A framework has been developed for formalizing the scope, roles, accountabilities and monitoring and evaluation of the HIOs.
- g) Strengthening civil society networks: Led by the UN Foundation, the Energy Access Practitioner Network has more than 2,000 members from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector groups and social enterprises, delivering energy services in 170 countries.

56. **The Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework** is a global data monitoring system designed to support tracking of progress towards SDG 7 and its targets in an accountable and transparent manner. The World Bank and the International Energy Agency lead the work, supported by UN-Energy and 20 other organizations.

57. **UN-Energy** has continued implementing its main objectives of enhancing coherence among on-going energy efforts and promoting common paths that accelerate achievement of global energy

---

goals. The Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All will continue to work with and be supported by UN-Energy to strengthen synergies across the system. During 2014 and 2015, UN-Energy has played a key role coordinating the UN Technical Support Team effort on defining an ambitious stand-alone energy SDG and corresponding energy targets for the post-2015 Development Agenda. UN-Energy is now coordinating the efforts by international organizations on defining the energy indicators that will support the proposed energy SDG and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2014, UN-Energy published a report summarizing all current and future activities by UN-Energy member organizations in support of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. The report seeks to further align and coordinate, in a more coherent manner, the different efforts supporting the Decade, the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Rio+20 follow-up process and the post-2015 Development Agenda.

## **VI. Conclusions And Way Forward**

58. With Sustainable Development Goal 7, Member States have for the first time agreed on a universal goal on energy, with targets on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy and related means of implementation. During its first four years, the Sustainable Energy for All initiative has contributed to putting in place a global framework for implementation.
59. Yet, the progress towards SDG 7 is still uneven and mixed. Efforts will need to be re-doubled to strengthen dialogues, scale-up partnerships and action, catalyze investment, and build capacity for implementation and monitoring.
60. At present, energy dialogues are highly fragmented, and there is no truly global dialogue platform that brings together all Member States and other stakeholders in an inclusive manner. Moving forward, therefore, Member States may wish to consider the best format and forum for global Energy Ministers to meet, as an inclusive global high-level dialogue platform on energy to track progress and shape the global discourse on action towards SDG 7.

---

61. To support Member States in their implementation of SDG 7, the United Nations System will continue to strengthen coordination, coherence and synergies on energy, including through the Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

---