

MOBILIZING ENERGY ACTION

The High-level Dialogue on
Energy and its Impacts

24 September 2021



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On 24 September 2021, more than 130 global leaders, including Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Executive Heads of UN entities and international organizations, CEOs and other multi-stakeholder representatives, joined the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE), announcing ambitious targets, transformational actions and bold investments towards achieving universal energy access and net-zero emissions.

The first leader-level meeting on energy under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in 40 years, the Dialogue aimed to boost efforts to provide energy access by 2030 to the nearly 760 million people who live without electricity and the 2.6 billion people who lack access to clean cooking solutions, while setting the world on a trajectory towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

One of the main outcomes of the Dialogue was the first-ever global roadmap for accelerating achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) – affordable, sustainable, reliable and modern energy for all. The roadmap presents a clear strategy for achieving universal energy access and accelerated energy transition by 2030, including a set of concrete and practical milestones.

In support of these objectives, more than USD 400 billion in new finance and investment was committed by governments and the private sector in the form of Energy Compacts announced during the Dialogue and multi-stakeholder Energy Action pre-events on 22 and 23 September. The commitments aim to provide hundreds of millions of people with clean energy access and speed up energy transition, while creating green jobs to leave no one behind.

While the commitments announced were a significant step forward, participants acknowledged that far more is needed to address energy poverty and the decarbonization of energy systems.

The UN General Assembly, through resolution 74/225, invited the UN Secretary-General, with the support of /ie e-evstet /o /oeveue e igh-level gy (HLDE(/o /pmoate (it)-30 ())TJ-0.468 Tw O -1.75 Td[imoplsmentation of th and toerieseambsition(and ac)10 (c)10 (eler)10 (at)10 (a(ction t)10 (o)20.1 (w)19.9 (ar)10 (ds the achie)20 (v)20 (emen

HLDE CHAMPIONS AND LEADS

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A SIGNAL OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE

During the HLDE, more than 130 global leaders, including Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Executive Heads of UN entities and international organizations, CEOs and other multi-stakeholder representatives, shared their views on subjects such as accelerating action to achieve universal energy access and net-zero emissions; ensuring just and inclusive energy transitions to leave no one behind; catalyzing finance and investment; and scaling up action through Energy Compacts. The interventions included announcements of ambitious targets, transformational actions and bold investments towards achieving universal energy access and net-zero emissions. In demonstrating their commitment to action at the HLDE, world leaders gave, in the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, “a real signal of what is possible”.

In his address to the HLDE, António Guterres said, “We have a double imperative: to ensure universal energy access and to address climate change. And we have an answer that will fulfil both: renewable energy and sustainable energy for all.”

A [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] said, "It is no longer a question of 'economy versus environment or health [redacted]'. This is an energy revolution in the making. Let's make sure it's fair, just [redacted] closing remarks he said, "Aligning just 1 percent of the roughly 400 trillion [redacted] that are held today by banks, institutional investors [and] asset managers [redacted] the annual #SDGs financing gap – just one percent."



HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKERS






FIVE THEMATIC REPORTS SET OUT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCELERATED SDG7 ACTION

At the Ministerial Thematic Forums, five reports were launched that had been prepared by Technical Working Groups, presenting detailed recommendations for actions needed across the five themes of the Dialogue: energy access; energy transition; enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions; innovation, technology and data; and finance and investment.

The reports offer a clearly defined global path forward: the need for a bold, radical, system-wide shift in the way we think about energy. The recommendations from the reports highlight the need to align energy access policies and investments with energy transition pathways and leverage synergies between electrification and clean cooking efforts to achieve a just transition. A people-centred transition should also be a key focus to drive the sustainable development agenda and ensure no one is left behind. Creating regional markets can lower costs due to economies of scale and allow for quicker integration of renewables, while investments in physical infrastructure, data and digitization can improve efficiencies and make projects more attractive to investors. Promoting such a systems-wide approach can enable transformational change in the energy transition to achieve the SDGs, ensuring that energy transition pathways are sustainably designed and implemented to enhance synergies and reduce trade-offs with other SDGs.

Finally, finance is key to achieving the SDGs. Public finance delivery for the SDGs should be accelerated and blended finance schemes should be used to mobilize and maximize private capital for clean energy investments and innovative energy technologies. Local currency funding should be enhanced to strengthen domestic capital markets and market-distorting subsidies should be corrected. The lack of carbon-pricing frameworks should also be addressed to adequately account for environmental externalities that inhibit sustainable investments.





2025 MILESTONES

- An additional 500 million people to gain access to electricity
- An additional 1 billion people to gain access to clean cooking solutions
- Annual investment in access to electricity to increase to USD 35 billion and in access to clean cooking to increase to USD 25 billion
- 100% increase in modern renewables capacity globally
- Double annual investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency globally
- No new coal power plants in the pipeline after 2021
- Fossil fuel consumption subsidies re-directed towards renewable energy and energy efficiency
- 30 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency

2030 MILESTONES

- Universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions
- Triple global renewable power capacity
- Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- Triple annual investment for renewable energy and energy efficiency globally
- Phase out coal power plants within the OECD by 2030 and globally by 2040
- 60 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Universal access to electricity in all healthcare facilities and all schools worldwide

The Energy Compacts represent significant steps forward. They are an historic opportunity for all stakeholders — governments, businesses, youth and civil society — to seize the momentum and make bold commitments that will eventually bridge the large gap that exists between the current reality and the aspirations of the SDG7 targets, and place the world on a path to build a sustainable economy driven by renewable energy.

UN-Energy will continue to play a key role moving forward. Energy Compact Workflows will be

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DELIVERING ACTION AFTER THE HLDE



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- Bolivia
 - Brazil
 - Chile
 - Denmark
 - Ethiopia
 - Germany
 - Honduras
 - Iceland
 - India
 - Italy
 - Japan
 - Lebanon
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LINKS AND RESOURCES



High-level Dialogue on Energy webpage [HLDE September 2021 | United Nations](#)

UN Energy webpage [Home – UN – Energy](#)

Energy Compact webpage [Energy Compacts | United Nations](#)

Energy Compact Overview [Energy Compacts Registry | United Nations](#)

Global Roadmap [Global Roadmap | United Nations](#)

Five Thematic Reports [Theme Reports | United Nations](#)

IISD HLDE Summary report, 22–24 September 2021 [Summary report 22–24 September 2021 \(iisd.org\)](#)

IISD Highlights and images of main proceedings for 24 September 2021 [Highlights and images of main proceedings for 24 September 2021 \(iisd.org\)](#)

UN Web TV High-level Dialogue on Energy [High-level Dialogue on Energy | UN Web TV](#)

[Energy Action Day \(22 September\)](#)

[Energy Action Day \(23 September\)](#)

