

**7 AFFORDABLE AND
CLEAN ENERGY**





Summary for Policymakers

Energy is central to the achievement of both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Key Messages for Policymakers presented below are aimed at informing the review of progress on Sustainable Development Goal 7: Ensure access to a affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG 7) by the UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2018. These Key Messages are drawn from and build on a series of SDG 7 Policy Briefs developed by the multi-stakeholder SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group convened by UN DESA.

1. We must step up. Without urgent action, the world will fall short of achievement of SDG 7 and consequently other SDGs. About a billion people currently live without electricity, which significantly limits their development opportunities. Almost three billion people lack access to clean-cooking solutions and are exposed to dangerous levels of air pollution, which results in millions of deaths each year, mostly among women and children. Although power generation using renewable energy is expanding rapidly, little progress has been made on integrating renewable energy into end-use applications in buildings, industry and transport. Meanwhile, the current rate of improvement in energy efficiency (2.2 per cent per year) is less than the 2.7 per cent per year needed to meet the global target. Financial flows, including public and private investments in energy, are also falling short of what is needed.
2. SDG 7 is within reach. The transformation of the world's energy systems is already under way and being accelerated by advances in technologies, rapid cost declines, strategic shifts in policies, regulatory frameworks and investments, new business models, concern for energy security and sanitation, jobs, innovation, transport, and refugees and other situations of displacement. Special emphasis is on mainstreaming gender considerations into all SDG-related energy actions, as well as climate change responses, and on promoting energy services for productive end uses to enhance development benefits.
4. A Global Agenda for Accelerated SDG 7 Action is proposed as a foundation for concerted action by all stakeholders in support of SDG 7. The Global Agenda presents a set of priority actions to be taken by all stakeholders to accelerate the achievement of SDG 7 based on the analysis in the Policy Briefs and on experiences from existing efforts to date, recognizing the special challenges facing those countries that are most vulnerable and the furthest behind, including least developed countries, small island developing States and land-locked developing countries. This Agenda also aims to better link SDG 7 actions and results with existing intergovernmental processes related to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. Key elements of the Global Agenda for Accelerated SDG 7 Action are presented below.
5. All stakeholders should step up and focus their efforts in support of SDG 7 by forming partnerships and jointly translating the Global Agenda into specific, strategic, bold and time-bound plans of action, including through facilitation of efforts by the UN Secretariat including the UN Regional Commissions and in coordination with the UN development system, international organizations, multilateral development banks, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders. Efforts of the multi-stakeholder SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group should be strengthened to support such actions. Future global milestones in addition to the High-Level Political Forum, including the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties and the Secretary-General's Climate Change Summit 2019, present key global platforms for sharing lessons and inspiring further actions. The UN Decade on Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024 should also be leveraged to spur global momentum.

The Global Agenda for Accelerated SDG 7 Action

Objective

The Global Agenda for Accelerated SDG 7 Action is presented as a foundation for concerted action by all stakeholders in support of achieving SDG 7. It presents a set of priority actions to be taken by stakeholders to accelerate the achievement of SDG 7, based on analysis in the SDG 7 Policy Briefs developed by the multi-stakeholder SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group convened by UN DESA, as well as experiences from existing actions to date, and recognizing the special challenges facing the countries that are the most vulnerable and the furthest behind. It also aims to better link SDG 7 actions and results with the existing intergovernmental processes at the UN related to the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. By bringing all stakeholders together, it is also intended to increase coordination, reduce duplications and enhance synergies.

Priority Actions

The Global Agenda aims to catalyse concerted, strategic, bold, time-bound and measurable actions in support of SDG 7 by 2030, grouped into four interlinked categories:

I. Advancing SDG 7 implementation

- Make clean-cooking solutions a top political priority, and put in place specific policies, cross-sectoral plans and public investments, supported by renewed game-changing multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- Close the electricity access gap

II. Strengthening interlinkages between SDG 7 and other SDGs

- Harness the potential of cross-sectoral interlinkages to maximize multiple benefits and synergies by promoting energy as an enabler for all the SDGs. Special attention should be given to the interlinkages between energy and poverty eradication, reduction of inequalities, gender equality, jobs, climate change, food security, health, education, clean water and sanitation, sustainable cities and communities, innovation, transport, industrialization, peace and security, refugees and other situations of displacement. Risks of trade-offs, such as among sustainable energy, food security and water, will have to be managed, while harnessing the opportunities for synergies.
- A unified approach is required to achieve SDG 7 and meet the goal of the Paris Agreement simultaneously. Decarbonization of the world's energy systems and attainment of the targets of SDG 7, including ensuring universal access to modern energy by 2030, are mutually reinforcing and must be advanced at the same time.
- Integrate gender equality and women's empowerment into all energy actions to advance the SDGs. Empower women in the design, production and distribution of modern energy services, by developing their technical and business skills and establishing

Making it happen

Turning the Global Agenda into action requires increased international cooperation among all stakeholders on specific, strategic, bold and time-bound plans of action and partnerships, including through facilitation of efforts by the UN Secretariat including the UN Regional Commissions and in coordination with the UN development system, international organizations (such as the International Energy Agency and the International Renewable Energy Agency), multilateral development banks (including the World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and regional development banks), businesses, civil society and other stakeholders. Future global milestones, such as the High-Level Political Forum, the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, and the Secretary-General's Climate Change Summit 2019, present key global platforms for sharing lessons and inspiring further actions in support of SDG 7. The UN Decade on Sustainable Energy for All 2014–2024 should also be leveraged to strengthen leadership-level engagements, share plans, programmes and lessons, and catalyze action, partnerships and resources globally. The multi-stakeholder SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group should continue to be strengthened and leveraged to support such efforts.

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