

United Nations High-level Week, 14 – 30 September, 2021



High-level Dialogue on Energy

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WHY DOES IT MATTER?

- Energy is key to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Universal access to clean, affordable and modern energy services is essential if we are to achieve the SDGs as we decarbonize the world's energy systems.
- The world is currently falling short of achieving SDG 7. We must change this trajectory. Currently, 759 million people lack access to electricity and 2.6 billion still cook with unhealthy fuels.
- We are also far off track to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 — greenhouse gas emissions are still increasing. The science says that to keep the 1.5 degree target in reach, we need to rapidly accelerate energy transitions to renewable energy sources with increased financial investments and partnerships, as we expand energy access.
- Subsidies to fossil fuels must shift to supporting renewable energy, and developed countries must lead in announcing plans to phase out coal — by 2030 in OECD countries, and 2040 in all other countries — according to the Dialogue's global roadmap.
- The ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the importance of reliable energy access for resilience and adaptability – whether it is for health, remote learning or remote work.
- Every country, city, financial institution and company needs to raise ambition and is encouraged to submit their Energy Compacts setting out their voluntary commitments and actions. The Energy Compacts will show how they plan to increase access to clean, affordable energy and accelerate an inclusive, just energy transition in line with the global roadmap to achieve SDG 7 and net-zero emissions.
- We can still achieve SDG 7 and the Paris Agreement, but only if current efforts to reduce emissions and ensure universal access to sustainable energy are dramatically accelerated.

OBJECTIVES

The High-level Dialogue on Energy aims to tackle the twin crises of climate change and energy poverty — to accelerate action towards clean, affordable energy for all that will reduce emissions and provide energy to the 759 million people who presently lack access to electricity and the 2.6 billion who cook with unhealthy fuels.

In addition, the Dialogue aims to:

- Raise ambition towards the achievement of the SDG 7 targets by catalysing innovative solutions, investments, multi-stakeholder partnerships and political commitments;
- Catalyze finance, investment, innovation, new technologies, capacity building and quality data for SDG 7 acceleration, including maximizing its contribution to combating climate change;
- Strengthen synergies with major intergovernmental processes, including on transport, oceans, biodiversity, gender equality, food systems and climate change;
- Accelerate delivery of United Nations support and services for Member States on energy-related issues at all levels.

FORMAT AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- The High-level Dialogue on Energy is being convened virtually, at the summit level, by the United Nations Secretary-General, as mandated by the UN General Assembly. It is the first high-level gathering on energy under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in forty years, and presents a historic opportunity.
- The Dialogue will provide Member States and other stakeholders an opportunity to announce [Energy Compacts](#) that will set out voluntary commitments and actions towards achieving clean, affordable energy for all, with implementation to be monitored and tracked through 2030. Thirty Member State [Global Champions](#) are playing important roles in mobilizing commitments.
- In addition to the official Dialogue, energy action events will be held on the mornings of 22 and 23 September, to allow more time for national and local governments, businesses, youth and civil society organizations to announce their Energy Compacts and expand partnerships. An informal “fireside chat” on 24 September at 8:30 a.m. with senior UN, business and civil society leaders will highlight the key issues and set the stage for the Dialogue.
- Another major outcome of the Dialogue will be a forward-looking statement setting out a global roadmap for concrete actions needed to ensure access to clean, affordable energy for all (SDG 7) by 2030, in support of the Decade of Action to deliver on the SDGs and climate action.
- The global roadmap will be based on the recommendations of [five Technical Working Groups](#) and informed by the [Ministerial Thematic Forums](#).
- A comprehensive report of the Dialogue will also be compiled based on the discussions during the Dialogue and informed by the preparatory processes and relevant background materials.

MORE INFORMATION

www.un.org/en/conferences/energy2021

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