

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE PRESIDENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
H.E. AMBASSADOR MARTIN SAJDIK

SE4ALL FORUM
HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE: ENERGY IN THE POST 2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
OPENING REMARKS
INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR WATER-ENERGY NEXUS
6 JUNE 2014

Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of ECOSOC I would like to thank the overall team of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and in particular Mr. Kandeh Yumkella, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chief Executive Officer of this initiative, for organizing this extraordinary event that has brought together all stakeholders concerned with the important issue of energy.

At ECOSOC we welcome events that bring together not only representatives from governments but also from the UN System, civil society, academia and the private sector. I would like to assure you that ECOSOC can always serve as a platform for high level dialogues designed to move forward the aspirational and transformative global objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

The strong interest in energy, now recognized by everyone as an indispensable factor for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication, stems from its nexus and interlinkages with almost all the other topics of sustainable development. It is therefore clear that sustainable energy is a key enabler of sustainable development for all countries and all people. The availability of adequate, affordable

and reliable sustainable modern energy services is essential for alleviating poverty, promoting health and education, raising living standards and ultimately for achieving sustainable development. Improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy represent critical global strategies to mitigate climate change.

In addition we know that reliable energy services are a precondition for investments that bring about economic growth and social development because the availability of energy services is a strong factor determining investments in the industrial, transport, service and all other major sectors of a country's economy. In this context I would like to mention the interlinkage of investment in energy infrastructure and rule of law: private sector investments are risk sensitive, therefore it is essential to lure private investment by providing a stable, transparent and accountable environment that reduces the investment risk.

Modern energy services also allow major enhancements in education and health. These are two crucial factors in the development of human capital. The availability of sustainable energy promotes equity and enhances opportunities facilitating empowerment and improvement of the well-being of the population.

We also recognize that a major transformation of global energy systems is a necessary pre-requisite for meeting the main challenges facing humanity, including poverty eradication. Energy stands at the center of global efforts to induce a paradigm shift that will put the world into an appropriate track towards sustained prosperity. Major changes in the current trends are required so that future energy systems are affordable, clean, safe, secure, environmentally sound and available everywhere and for everyone. The Sustainable Energy for All initiative represents the

engine behind this major global transformation and we are going to provide our full support until its major objectives are fully met.

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals is still deliberating on a final set of Sustainable Development Goals. As most of you probably know, Energy is being proposed as stand-alone, dedicated goal and is receiving ample support from many Member States amongst them also my own, Austria. Although the discussions of the Group will continue, we already are seeing proposals being considered for energy targets that fulfill the criteria of being aspirational, transformative, measurable and achievable within a specific timeframe. Some of these proposals being proposed address the critical issues of universal energy access, improvement in energy efficiency and increasing use of renewable energy and are consistent with the three major objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative which are expected to be met by the year 2030.

I am very impressed with all that has already been accomplished during this First global Sustainable Energy for All Forum. Also, the launch of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All provided sufficient information about very promising activities that will help to accelerate the transformation that is needed globally and at all levels.

I look forward to a very dynamic and invigorating high-level ministerial dialogue today and again I thank very much the Sustainable Energy for All team for all its accomplishments.

Thank you for your attention.