

**United Nations General Assembly Global stocktaking marking
the completion of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All to
further accelerate the implementation of SDG 7 of the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Friday, 19 April 2024, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
General Assembly Hall, UN Headquarters

On the last day of the Sustainability Week, the President of the General Assembly will convene, with support from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and in collaboration with UN-Energy, *“a global stocktaking, marking the completion of the ongoing efforts to implement the plan of action of the Decade, and building on the follow-up to the high-level dialogue on energy, to further accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 7 of the 2030 Agenda”*, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 77/170 and 78/157.

Facing a worsening climate crisis, spreading conflicts, and a gloomy global economic outlook, it is paramount for the international community to pursue a sustainable and thriving future for all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains the clearest blueprint of these aspirations. However, current progress is severely off-track. Energy is an essential ingredient for getting the world on track towards meeting the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change. SDG 7, which calls for access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, is inextricably linked to many other SDGs and its targets, including poverty eradication, food security, health, education, prosperity, gender equality, employment, transport, ocean, clean water and sanitation, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of women, youth and children.

Energy transitions are key to achieving the 1.5° Celsius objective of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The UAE Consensus, adopted at the UNFCCC COP 28, has underlined energy’s centrality to climate action, recognizing the need to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, including by tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030. It also calls for ensuring national and international frameworks that address energy poverty or just transitions.

As of 2023, 473 million people in LDCs are without any connection to electricity, accounting for almost two-thirds of the global population lacking access. On average, 60%

of the population in LLDCs have access to electricity as of 2021. Almost half of the 32 LLDCs have achieved 97% of the population living with access; with the low average coverage reflecting the low access rates of LLDCs that are also LDCs. Similarly, SIDS have access rates above 95% as of 2021, with the lowest access rates also reflecting the low rates of SIDS that are also LDCs.

Therefore, realizing just, inclusive and equitable energy transitions is the prerequisite for ensuring that no one will be left behind, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). All stakeholders need to step up to achieve universal energy access and accelerate clean energy transitions in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. Achieving SDG7 will require increased ambition, accelerated implementation, and scaled-up multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The High-level Dialogue on Energy convened by the Secretary-General in 2021 resulted in considerable momentum towards SDG7, including the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action and the Energy Compacts.

At the SDG Summit in September 2023, it was announced that over USD 1.3 trillion had already been mobilized through the Energy Compacts which featured prominently as one of 12 High-Impact Initiatives. However, efforts must be further scaled up and accelerated to ensure effective implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024), to achieve SDG 7 by 2030, and accelerate action towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

Objectives

The goal of the global stocktaking is to review progress achieved at the end of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, 2014-2024, and to raise ambition and accelerate action towards attaining SDG 7 by catalysing innovative solutions, investments and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

In this context, key questions to be addressed include:

- How can ambitions be further increased and implementation be further accelerated?
- How can multi-stakeholder partnerships be scaled up?
- What will be the appropriate institutional arrangements for continuing to advance international cooperation on energy beyond the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All?

Further voluntary commitments, including Energy Compacts, will be encouraged in support of closing the energy gap, rapidly transitioning to decarbonized energy systems, addressing energy's interlinkages, and strengthening partnerships and the means of implementation.

Format

The global stocktaking will consist of an opening and closing segments and two thematic debates. The global stocktaking will bring together high-level representatives from Member States and other leaders from all regions. The meeting will be open to the United Nations system, ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders.

Thematic Debate 1: Closing the energy access gap and transitioning to decarbonized energy systems

675 million people still lack access to electricity. About 2.3 billion people remain without clean cooking solutions, causing millions of premature deaths annually, disproportionately affecting women. Progress towards ensuring universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions and technology by 2030 will be reviewed and solutions to closing the remaining energy access gap will be discussed.

While the investment in renewables is outpacing the investment in fossil fuel power plants, much more is required to transition away from fossil fuels as the deployment of renewables is lagging especially in transport, industry, heating and cooling. Discussions will centre on the need for accelerated progress on deep energy decarbonization in support of achieving the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement, including through the tripling of renewable energy capacity globally and the doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030, as well as the phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that do not address energy poverty or just transitions.

Thematic Debate 2: Addressing energy's interlinkages and strengthening means of implementation and partnerships

Progress on SDG7 can produce particularly high co-benefits in other areas of sustainable development, bringing many more development synergies than trade-offs for vulnerable populations. This includes poverty eradication, food security, health, education, prosperity, gender equality, jobs, transport, ocean, water and sanitation, and the empowerment of women and youth. However, co-benefits in these areas do not come about automatically. Discussions will elaborate on cross-sectoral approaches that are required at the level of policy, planning, and implementation. Among other benefits, the implementation of SDG7 could result in millions of new green jobs world-wide.

The need to dramatically scale up international cooperation to catalyse public and private finance and investment to accelerate energy transitions, especially for developing countries as well as vulnerable countries and countries in special situations, including SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs, will be focused on. Discussions will also consider the importance of infrastructure, technology transfer, capacity building and the collection, management and application of data in addressing the digital divide in the energy sector.

Outcome

The President of the General Assembly’s “*Call to Action*” will be launched to further accelerate the implementation of SDG7, focusing on a set of recommended actions and arrangements to follow-up on the Decade with concrete milestones towards 2030, consistent with the net zero goal to be achieved by 2050.
