

Statement by Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina
United Nations High-Level Dialogue on Energy,
Wednesday, 29th September, 2021

In 2015, we all committed to assuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all – SDG 7.

Africa has close to 600 million people without electricity – that is three quarters of the world’s population without access to electricity. To meet SDG-7 in the world, we must meet it in Africa.

Since the African Development Bank launched its New Deal on Energy for Africa in 2015, we have invested over \$7.2 billion in the energy sector.

We have helped to provide electricity to over 20 million people. Electricity access rate in Africa has increased from 49% in 2015 to 56% in 2019.

Grace, a beneficiary of our last-mile connectivity project in Kenya, which has already connected 1.2 million poor households to electricity, said: “we once were in the dark, now we can see”.

We are rapidly unlocking Africa’s vast potential in renewable energy, with 73% of the additional power generation capacity financed by the Bank being from renewable energy.

We are taking bolder steps. The African Development Bank has launched a landmark \$20 billion Desert to Power Program to develop 10,000 Megawatts of new solar generation capacity in eleven countries, to provide electricity for 250 million people. This will become the world’s largest solar zone.

We will invest \$14 billion in energy projects by 2030, and leverage at least an additional \$42 billion in co-financing.

The future of energy in Africa is green.

Together, let us light up and power Africa.

Thank you very much.

Words: 260 words (2 Mins).