

76th UN General Assembly - HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY
REMARKS BY THE HON. MINISTER OF INFRASTRUCTURE -
RWANDA
Friday, September 24, 2021

- ❖ **Excellency, the Secretary General of the United Nations**
- ❖ **Excellencies, Heads of State and Government**
- ❖ **Distinguished Delegates,**

Greetings from Rwanda!

1. It is a great honor and privilege for me to speak on behalf of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda at this High Level Dialogue on Energy.
2. According to the Energy Progress Report, about 759 million people did not have access to electricity in 2019, and around 2.6 billion people still relied on inefficient and harmful fuels for cooking and heating. Given the current COVID-19 pandemic, I would argue that not much has changed since then.
3. Hence, universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services by 2030 is still considered an urgent matter to improve the living and working conditions of the majority of the world's population.

4. We are all cognizant of the efforts made by the UN member states towards achieving universal targets of electrification and access to clean energy for cooking.
5. However, the energy access challenge is still complex, and it requires coordinated action, such as enhancing socio-economic inclusiveness of energy financing programs.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

6. The Government of Rwanda has prioritized the achievement of universal access to electricity currently at 66% (with a 63% share of renewables) and a reduction of biomass energy for cooking to 42% by 2024.
7. Strategic investments through public and partnerships with private sector have been mobilized by the Government, with the support of Development Partners, to achieve the aforementioned targets.
8. The use of blended financing mechanisms with de-risking strategies combined with end-user subsidies has to be prioritized, to specifically support sustainable transitioning to clean cooking by 2030.

9. The Government of Rwanda supports the Energy Compacts initiative in line with the SDGs Acceleration Actions and the Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

10. Today's dialogue therefore, can help pave the way for an energy revolution. We should leave here today having identified the required strategic measures to achieve universal access to electricity and clean cooking by 2030, without fail.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

11. As I conclude, I would like to reiterate the Government of Rwanda's commitment to the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. On this note, I wish you all fruitful discussions and deliberations.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION