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**Statement**

**High-level Dialogue on Energy**

**Leadership Dialogue 1**

**ACCELERATING ACTION TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL ENERGY ACCESS AND NET ZERO EMISSIONS**

**24 September 2021, 11.30am**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Secretary-General of the Dialogue, it is my great honor to deliver a statement at this Leadership Dialogue on accelerating action to achieve universal energy access and net zero emissions.

I am pleased to greet the heads of state and government, and representatives of all Member States, acknowledging in particular the active engagement of the Global Theme Champions in the process leading up to the High-level Dialogue.

My heartfelt gratitude to the co-lead organizations of the Technical Working Groups for their invaluable service in providing expert analysis and recommendations in support of our deliberations today.

A warm welcome also to all stakeholders from the private sector, cities and subnational governments, NGOs, academia, and civil society and youth

organizations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Energy is central to both achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

While we have made significant progress, without urgent action, the world will fall short of achieving SDG 7 and net-zero emissions.

We need collective action on energy across sectors to deliver scaled-up and broad impact.

First, a global roadmap should be established to guide our collective efforts towards achieving SDG 7 and net-zero emissions.

Key elements of the roadmap are clear.

Closing the energy access gap to provide access to electricity for the 760 million people worldwide who lack it and ensure clean cooking solutions for the 2.6 billion people still relying on harmful fuels.

Accelerating energy transition to address climate change.

Tripling finance and investment for clean energy solutions.

Ramping up clean energy technology research, development and deployment.

Second, we must leverage interlinkages and synergies between energy and other SDGs, in Order to advance the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

Transforming the world's energy systems will create new jobs, advance gender equality, and empower people, communities, and societies.

To leave no one behind, we must ensure a just and inclusive energy transition to enhance human well-being, health, and capabilities, increase resilience, and drive innovation towards a sustainable society at all levels, while also driving huge investments.

The annual Global Conference on strengthening synergies between SDGs and Climate, hosted by UN DESA and UNFCCC, provides an excellent platform to discuss and advance the interlinkages between energy and climate action.

Third, we must dramatically scale up action.

Every stakeholder has an important role to play in this global endeavour.

I am proud to note that so many Energy Compacts are being announced today during the course of this High-level Dialogue on Energy.

These ground-breaking voluntary commitments from Member States and other key stakeholders from the business sector, subnational governments and civil society testify to the unprecedented momentum created by this process.

Yet, we need much more to achieve our goals.

We must sustain the momentum created and mobilize further action in support of SDG7 and net-zero emission.

The Decade of Sustainable Energy for All under the auspices of the General Assembly will provide an important platform to grow this momentum and mobilize further actions.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

DESA remains strongly committed to supporting the Member States, and indeed all stakeholders, in their efforts towards SDG7 and net-zero emissions.

We will strengthen the UN-Energy Secretariat to enhance coordination and coherence among UN entities and other partners, leveraging their full cross-sectoral expertise.

Together, we can realize the potential of energy as the key to a combined and mutually supportive approach towards the SDGs and net-zero emissions, allowing for a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for people and the planet.

Thank you.