

**Session at the
2025 SDG 7 Action Forum**

**Sustainable Energy and Clean Water Access to Ensure
Quality Education and Learning Opportunities for All**

**211 East 46th St.
New York**

**25 September 2025
14:30 – 16:00 New York time**

Draft Concept Note

Background

Access to sustainable energy and clean water is critical to ensure quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. Reliable energy powers lighting, internet, computers, digital tools, and essential infrastructure in schools, making it possible for students to study after dark, for teachers to use modern educational technologies, and for institutions to maintain safe learning environments. Without energy, classrooms remain dark and disconnected, limiting both participation and the ability to provide an up-to-date curriculum that prepares students for the demands of the modern world. Similarly, access to clean water is fundamental for the health, hygiene, and well-being of students and educators alike. Safe water and proper sanitation reduce absenteeism caused by illness, especially among young children, and create an environment where learners can focus and thrive. Girls, in particular, benefit from adequate water and sanitation facilities, which support their continued attendance and participation in school. Together, sustainable energy and water not only enable daily educational activities but also underpin the promise of lifelong learning by ensuring that all learners can access and benefit from quality education, now and in the future.

Implementing integrated energy and water solutions both in homes and educational facilities enables the achievement of significant synergies and efficiencies, while also minimizing negative trade-offs that may arise from managing these resources separately. This strategy could make a major difference in vulnerable communities where access to these factors is difficult, particularly in rural and isolated communities.

The Division for Sustainable Development Goals of UN DESA is conducting a number of initiatives and events designed to support the integrated implementation of energy and water. One of these initiatives is the Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network created in 2018

(<https://www.un.org/en/waterenergynetwork>). The Network aims towards a world where there is an equitable and sustainable use and management of energy and water resources for all, in support of human prosperity, under the umbrella of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2025 SDG 7 Action Forum offers a unique platform to assess the potential for this transformative pathway on energy (SDG 7) and water (SDG 6) for scaled-up actions supporting quality education and learning opportunities for all (SDG 4). This session of the 2025 SDG 7 Action Forum, organized by UN DESA in cooperation with members of this Network, will bring together multi-stakeholders to discuss the critical intersections between water, energy and education.

Objective

The objective of this event is to provide an opportunity for the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experiences on integrated energy and water solutions supporting quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all. The event supports the objectives of the Global Network on Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions and will bring together multi-stakeholders to discuss and showcase existing initiatives on effective solutions addressing the energy-water nexus and its social implications.

Participants

The event will include participants representing Member States from public, private, and non-profit organizations, as well as international organizations and practitioners involved and interested in sustainable water and energy solutions supporting quality education and learning opportunities for all.

Location and Time

This event will be held **in person** at 211 East 46th Street (between 2nd and 3rd Avenue), New York City on 25 September 2025 from 14:30 – 16:00 (New York Time).