



High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021

under the auspices of the UN General Assembly

Thematic Consultations ¹

1. Background

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/225, the Secretary-General will convene a High-level Dialogue on Energy at the summit level during the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2021, in New York. The Dialogue will result in a forward-looking statement calling for concrete actions to further accelerate SDG7 implementation in support of the Decade of Action to deliver on the SDGs and the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement, taking into account the essential role of energy services in the fight against the global COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, the Dialogue will also feature additional voluntary commitments, including “Energy Compacts”, from Member States and non-state actors such as companies and sub-national authorities.

The Dialogue will be informed by inclusive, far-reaching preparatory processes and meetings at various levels. In order to draw on a broad range of expertise and perspectives, multi-stakeholder consultations will be held on the five Themes of the High-Level Dialogue (see below). The results of these Thematic Consultations will inform the High-level Dialogue on Energy at the summit level.

Considering the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings may be held virtually or in a hybrid format. The possibility for in-person meetings will be assessed on a continuing basis. More information on the Dialogue can be found in the Concept Note which is available on the [High-level Dialogue 2021 website](#) along with other information.

2. Thematic Consultations

The purpose of the Thematic Consultations is to develop substantive recommendations on the Themes of the Dialogue in order to inform the High-level Dialogue on Energy. Throughout the Thematic Consultations, intensive efforts will be made, with support of UN-Energy, to develop and mobilise voluntary commitments and actions in the form of “Energy Compacts” from Member States and multi-stakeholders that will detail key outcomes, milestones and implementation timelines with clear tracking frameworks towards 2030.

¹ Updated on 25 January 2021.

The Dialogue preparatory processes will be structured around five Themes: i) energy access, ii) energy transitions, iii) enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions, iv) innovation, technology and data, and v) finance and investment. Cross cutting issues, such as gender would be addressed throughout the Themes.

Each Theme will be supported by:

- Member State Global Theme Champions represented at the ministerial level.
- A Technical Working Group facilitated by three Co-Leads associated with UN-Energy and consisting of technical experts representing Government entities, international organizations, private sector entities, civil society organizations, academic institutions and others.
- A Ministerial-level Thematic Forum, which will involve Ministers and other high-level representatives from governments and relevant stakeholders.

It is anticipated that these Thematic Consultations will be conducted virtually, or in a hybrid fashion depending on the conditions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UN-Energy Co-Chairs in their capacity as the Dialogue Co-Chairs will provide substantive coordination for the Thematic Consultations. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All will also drive global advocacy as High-level Champion.

The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs in his capacity as the Dialogue Secretary-General will work closely with the Dialogue Co-Chairs to support the Thematic Consultations and to ensure that the results of the Thematic Consultations will inform the High-level Dialogue on Energy. Under his leadership, UNDESA serves as the Secretariat for the Dialogue, and will provide support to these processes.

3. Global Theme Champions

3.1. Role of Global Theme Champions

The Global Theme Champions will spearhead advocacy efforts on the respective Theme by increasing awareness and inspiring action, working closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All in her capacity as the High-Level Champion to drive global advocacy for the Dialogue. In addition, the Global Theme Champions will provide strategic advice to the Technical Working Group on their Theme. The role of Global Theme Champions entails:

- Conducting global advocacy for their Theme to advance SDG7. Global Theme Champions will be represented by a relevant portfolio minister at appropriate events during the High-level Dialogue preparatory processes, including the respective Thematic Forum.
- Serving as co-hosts for the respective Thematic Forum.

- Mobilising national Energy Compacts, presenting a set of concrete actions to achieve SDG7 and the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement. A Global Theme Champion is expected to commit to an Energy Compact and help mobilise other governments and multi-stakeholders to do the same at the earliest possible time, and at the latest by the High-level Dialogue on Energy.
- Conducting outreach to promote the High-level Dialogue on Energy, including the Energy Compacts, within their region and beyond.
- Providing strategic advice to the Technical Working Group.

3.2. Process

Member States interested in becoming a Global Theme Champion at the Ministerial level on one of the Themes are requested to express their interest in a letter format addressed to the Dialogue Secretary-General and the Dialogue Co-Chairs, clearly elaborating on how they intend to fulfil the roles and responsibilities described above.

Letters should be sent to the Secretariat of the High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021 (Att: Ms. Nadine Salame at DESA/DSDG, salame1@un.org) before 11 December 2020.

4. Technical Working Groups

Each Theme will be supported by a multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group. These Groups will be an opportunity for technical experts to engage in the substantive preparations for the High-level Dialogue by advancing substantive discussions on the Themes. Each of the groups will produce a thematic report containing substantive recommendations on issues related to their Theme which will contribute towards an action oriented SDG7 roadmap to 2030 in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Under the guidance of the UN-Energy Co-Chairs, the UN-Energy secretariat, in collaboration with the Co-Leads, will provide technical coordination support for the Technical Working Groups, including support for the organisation of their meetings.

4.1. Co-Leads

Role of Co-Leads

For each Technical Working Group, three international organizations will serve as Co-Leads, providing substantive direction for the work of the Group. A Co-Lead will be represented by its principal who would provide oversight and substantive direction, while the day to day meetings and work could be delegated to their technical focal points. More specifically, the Co-Leads will:

- Convene and chair meetings of the Technical Working Group, with logistical and technical support provided by the UN-Energy secretariat under the guidance of the UN-Energy Co-Chairs as the Dialogue Co-Chairs.

- Ensure the timely drafting, compilation and delivery of high-quality outputs of the Technical Working Group, including a *Thematic Report of the Technical Working Group* containing substantive recommendations on issues related to their Theme which will contribute towards an action-oriented SDG7 roadmap to 2030 in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- Discuss with the members of the Technical Working Group to consider, if needed, additional focus areas (tracks) under their Theme and establish sub-working groups to address specific challenges related to those Tracks, as and when required.
- Encourage the mobilization of Energy Compacts and any relevant multi-stakeholder partnerships by members of the Technical Working Group and other partners, to advance SDG 7 achievement.
- Designate technical focal points who will facilitate the work of the Technical Working Group on a day-to-day basis. These focal points should be available to dedicate appropriate time up until the High-Level Dialogue to advance the work and outputs of the Technical Working Group.

Process

The selection of international organizations as Co-Leads of the Groups will be made by the UN-Energy Co-Chairs in their capacity as the Dialogue Co-Chairs as part of their roles of facilitating substantive content development, multi-stakeholder mobilization and inter-agency support.

To help ensure coordinated support for the High-level Dialogue on Energy, the selection of the Co-Leads will give priority to those international organizations associated with UN-Energy, the inter-agency coordination mechanism within the UN system in the area of energy, based on their track record, substantive competencies and readiness to allocate timely and appropriate technical capacities required to facilitate and deliver on the work of the Technical Working Group. The UN-Energy Co-Chairs, in their capacity as the Dialogue Co-Chairs, are holding consultations among the UN-Energy organisations on the process accordingly, with a view to announcing the selection shortly.

For further questions on this process, please contact the Secretariat for the High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021 (Att: Ms. Nadine Salame at DESA/DSDG, salame1@un.org).

4.2. Members

Role of Members

The Membership of the Technical Working Groups will consist of technical experts representing Government entities, international organizations, private sector entities, civil society organizations, academic institutions and others. They will be leading experts in their areas of work, bringing with them outstanding and diversified competence relevant to the Theme of the Technical Working Group. The members will:

- Actively participate in the meetings of the Technical Working Groups with the aim of developing substantive recommendations on issues related to their Theme in the form of a Thematic Report of the Technical Working Group, by working closely with the Co-Leads.
- Contribute to the mobilization of Energy Compacts and/or any relevant partnerships to advance SDG7 achievement.

Process

To ensure effective collaboration among the Technical Working Group members towards producing recommendations within a relatively short period of time, the total number of members per Technical Working Group will be limited, taking into account the competencies required, regional balance, and as broad a range as possible of constituencies to be represented. The UN-Energy Co-Chairs, in their capacity as the Dialogue Co-Chairs, will hold consultations with a view to establishing effective Technical Working Groups with appropriately balanced memberships.

In addition, the technical focal points of UN-Energy organisations will by default participate in any of the Technical Working Groups, as and where relevant.

For further questions on this process, please contact the Secretariat for the High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021 (Att: Ms. Nadine Salame, DESA/DSDG, salame1@un.org).

5. Ministerial-level Thematic Forums

There will be five Forums at a ministerial-level, one per theme: i) the Energy Access Forum, ii) the Energy Transitions Forum, iii) the Forum on Enabling SDGs through Inclusive, Just Energy Transitions, iv) the Forum on Innovation, Technology and Data, and v) the Forum on Finance and Investment, in support of SDG7 achievement. The Forums will be open to all stakeholders.

The main purpose of these Forums will be to bring together Ministers and other high-level representatives from a broad range of stakeholders to share experiences and discuss opportunities for scaling up action towards the achievement of SDG 7 with a focus on the specific Theme of the Forum. The Co-Leads of the Technical Working Group on the respective Theme will share their findings and key recommendations from their *Thematic Report of the Technical Working Group* during the Forum. The Forum will also provide a highly visible platform to launch Energy Compacts and encourage all stakeholders to mobilise further voluntary commitments.

The Global Champions on the respective Theme will act as Co-Hosts of the Thematic Forum which will be jointly convened by the Dialogue Co-Chairs and the Dialogue Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Co-Leads of the Technical Working Group on this Theme. The UN-Energy Secretariat will provide substantive support for the organization of the Forums.

A summary of these Thematic Forums will be prepared by the conveners to inform the High-level Dialogue on Energy.

It is expected that these Thematic Forums be held during the 2nd quarter of 2021 virtually, or in a hybrid fashion, depending on the conditions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. UNDESA, as the Dialogue Secretariat, will provide organisational and other support for these Thematic Forums in partnership with host governments as well as UN-Energy, UN Regional Commissions and other relevant partners. In planning and making logistical arrangements for the Thematic Forums, opportunities to maximize impact and synergies will be explored, as and where meaningful.

More details on the Thematic Forums will be made available in due course on the [High-level Dialogue on Energy website](#).

For further questions, please contact the Secretariat for the High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021 (Att: Ms. Nadine Salame, DESA/DSDG, salame1@un.org).

6. Contributions to the High-level Dialogue on Energy

The Thematic Consultations will provide a strong basis for informed discussions during the High-level Dialogue on Energy at the summit level to be held in September 2021, in New York, including through the following:

- Thematic Reports of the Technical Working Groups.
- An inter-agency report, prepared with the support of UN-Energy under the guidance of the UN-Energy Co-Chairs as the Dialogue Co-Chairs, that will synthesise the Thematic Reports of the Technical Working Groups and other relevant technical inputs, in the form of a succinct Summary for Policy Makers.
- A summary of the Thematic Forums.
- Energy Compacts and other relevant voluntary commitments from Member States and other stakeholders.