

Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change¹

1. On 24 September 2021, over 130 Heads of State and Government, high representatives and multi-stakeholder leaders gathered for the High-level Dialogue on Energy to promote implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development².
2. As the first summit-level meeting on energy in 40 years under the auspices of the General Assembly, the Dialogue presented a historic opportunity to deliberate on a global roadmap for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 and commit to transformative action to address the twin energy challenges: ensuring access to clean and affordable energy services for all by 2030 and accelerating the energy transition towards net-zero emissions by 2050.
3. Energy is central to both achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. SDG 7, which calls for “*ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*” to be achieved by 2030, represents the first-ever universal goal on energy. It includes targets on ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, significantly increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, and doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. Achieving SDG 7 will catalyse action to combat climate change and attain many other SDGs, including on poverty eradication, gender equality, climate change, food security, health, education, sustainable cities and communities, clean water and sanitation, decent jobs, innovation, transport, and refugees and other situations of displacement.

Action

4. Without urgent action, however, the world will fall short of achieving SDG 7. We must dramatically accelerate our efforts. This global roadmap for accelerated SDG 7 action in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement calls for the following actions:
 - a. **Closing the energy access gap.** Decisive action is required to achieve access to clean energy for the 760 million people who currently live without electricity and for the 2.6 billion people still relying on harmful fuels for cooking. Ensuring access to clean, decarbonized energy for all by 2030 must be an urgent political priority at all levels. Investing in closing the energy access gap, halving it by 2025, should be prioritized, especially in the least developed countries.
 - b. **Rapidly transitioning to decarbonized energy systems.** Without deep energy decarbonization, the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement will fall quickly out of reach. Limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees requires the reduction of

¹ This document is presented as a forward-looking summary of the High-Level Dialogue on Energy by the UN Secretary-General.

² General Assembly resolution 74/225.

greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050. The deployment of renewable energy is lagging, especially in transport, industry, heating and cooling. Global energy efficiency improvements must increase significantly. The phase-out of coal power generation needs to be accelerated globally.

- c. **Mobilizing adequate and predictable finance.** Global investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency should be tripled towards 2030. Shifting fossil fuel subsidies to renewables as well as putting a price on carbon will also be crucial in accelerating the energy transition. International cooperation must be dramatically scaled up to catalyse the public and private finance and investment needed to accelerate energy transitions, especially for developing countries and small island developing States. Access to finance and the provision of technology transfer must be prioritised.
- d. **Leaving no one behind on the path to a net zero future.** The global energy transition must be just, inclusive, and equitable. No two national energy transition pathways will be identical. The SDGs should be integrated as a guiding framework for energy transition through policy and planning, to enhance synergies and reduce trade-offs with other SDGs and to ensure no one is left behind, especially the most vulnerable, including older persons, children, youth, indigenous peoples and displaced populations. Women also face risks of being left behind. While the energy transition is expected to produce an overall net gain in jobs, it is critical to invest in reskilling of affected workers and economic diversification of communities, ensuring a just transition.
- e. **Harnessing innovation, technology and data.** Governments need to establish a clear direction and enabling environments for energy innovation and technology development and deployment to harness their transformational potential. More investment is required in improving the collection, management and application of data and in addressing the digital divide. International cooperation should be enhanced to promote technology transfer to developing countries.

Milestones

5. To help ensure that collective efforts are designed and implemented consistent with SDG 7 targets and in support of other SDGs and net-zero emissions in line with the Paris Agreement, the global roadmap includes, as a practical guide, two sets of milestones³ for 2025 and 2030.

2025 milestones:

- 500 million more people have gained access to electricity.
- 1 billion more people have gained access to clean cooking solutions.

³ Drawing on the Theme Report on Energy Access; the Theme Report on Energy Transition; the Theme Report on Enabling SDGs through Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions; the Theme Report on Innovation, Technology and Data; and the Theme Report on Finance and Investment, 2021, United Nations. Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/energy2021/RESOURCES>

- Annual investment in access to electricity increased to US\$ 35 billion and in access to clean cooking increased to US\$ 25 billion.
- 100% increase in modern renewables capacity globally.
- Double annual investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency globally.
- No new coal power plans in the pipeline after 2021.
- Fossil fuel consumption subsidies re-directed towards renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- 30 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

2030 milestones:

- Universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions.
 - Triple global renewable power capacity.
 - Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.
 - Triple annual investment for renewable energy and energy efficiency globally.
 - Phase out coal power plans within the OECD by 2030 and globally by 2040.
 - 60 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency.
 - Universal access to electricity in all healthcare facilities and all schools worldwide.
6. In achieving these milestones, the most vulnerable countries, in particular, African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, deserve special attention, as investments in renewable energy in these countries will have a significant positive impact across different SDGs and exemplify the true spirit of leaving no one behind.
 7. Gender equality and women's empowerment must be prioritized, including empowering women in the design, production and distribution of modern energy services, including for productive uses, as well as equal representation of women in decision-making process in the area of energy.
 8. Achieving these milestones by 2025 and 2030 will also firmly propel the world towards net-zero emissions by 2050, while advancing a just, inclusive and equitable energy transition with universal energy access, green jobs, diversified economies, people's well-being and the empowerment of women, local communities and vulnerable groups to leave no one behind.

Partnerships for transformation

9. All stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, multilateral development banks, businesses, civil society, scientific communities, cities or regional

governments, must step up and strengthen their efforts to drive the global energy transition forward by forming transformational partnerships.

10. Energy Compacts are a key vehicle to translate the global roadmap into concrete actions and partnerships. Additional Energy Compacts should be continuously mobilized, including through a global energy compact action network, supported by UN-Energy.
11. The United Nations system, supported by UN-Energy, should significantly scale up its efforts towards attaining SDG 7 and net zero emissions. UN-Energy should be strengthened to support UN entities and other partners, including by facilitating coordination and monitoring progress of Energy Compacts, towards implementation of the global roadmap.
12. The High-level Political Forum on sustainable development and other relevant intergovernmental platforms, including on biodiversity, climate change, food systems, ocean, science, technology and innovation, transport and water, should be leveraged to accelerate SDG 7 action. The follow up to the Dialogue, including through Energy Compacts, should lead to significant scale up climate action. The UN Decade on Sustainable Energy for All provides a unique intergovernmental platform to further momentum and action to realise the global roadmap, including through a stocktaking exercise.
13. SDG 7 is within reach, but we must act now. With the global roadmap at hand, we can together realize the potential of energy as a crucial enabler for the achievement of the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement, ensuring a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for people and the planet.