



United
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ENERGYNOW

SDG7 ACTION FORUM



24-25 SEPTEMBER

211 EAST 46TH ST

NEW YORK



PROGRAMME

SUPPORTED BY:



United
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Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

Our Mission

Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) – ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all – is essential to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. However, progress toward SDG7 targets remains insufficient, with challenges such as energy poverty, rising demand, and the need for rapid decarbonization persisting worldwide. The urgency of addressing the energy-climate-development nexus has never been greater. The UN General Assembly's decision in 2024 to extend the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All until 2030 reinforces the global imperative to intensify efforts for energy action.

The SDG7 Action Forum will serve as a vital platform to review progress, sustain momentum, and drive ambitious action. Held in the lead-up to the third review of SDG7 at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2026, the Forum will also contribute meaningful insights for COP30 and to the SDG Summit 2027, shaping the direction of sustainable development beyond 2030. By fostering collaboration and advancing innovative solutions, the Forum will play a pivotal role in addressing the world's energy challenges and achieving just and inclusive energy transitions.

DAY 1 Wednesday, 24 September

09:30 – 09:45 **Opening & Welcome**
Room 1

09:45 – 10:45 Plenary Discussion I
Room 1 **Mobilizing a Final Push on SDG7 and Roadmap towards SDG7 review at HLPF 2026**

Organizers: UN-Energy and SDG 7 TAG

Moderator:

- **Mr. Riad Meddeb**, Director, Sustainable Energy Hub, UNDP

Presentation by the secretariat - Roadmap towards SDG7 review

Panel discussion:

- **Ms. Annika Blakstad Otterstedt**, Assistant Director General, SIDA
- **Ms. Rana Ghoneim**, Director, Division of Energy and Climate Action, UNIDO
- **Mr. Daniel Schroth**, Director, Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Department, AfDB
- **Ms. Fanny Missfeldt-Ringius**, ESMAP Practice Manager, World Bank

Interactive dialogue with audience

11:00 – 12:45 Parallel Session 1
Room 1 **United for Clean Cooking – A Joint UN Effort: Transforming Energy Systems to Protect Health and Advance Sustainable Development**

Organizers: WHO, World Bank, UNDP & FAO

Opening Remarks

- **Ms. Fanny Missfeldt-Ringius**, ESMAP Practice Manager, World Bank

Clean Cooking and Health in Practice: UN-Energy Members & Partners Roundtable

Moderator: Mr. Minoru Takada, UN-Energy Secretary, UNDESA

- **Ms. Heather Adair-Rohani**, Acting Head - Air Quality, Energy & Health, WHO
- **Ms. Michelle Hallack**, Senior Specialist, ESMAP, World Bank
- **Mr. Riad Meddeb**, Director, Sustainable Energy Hub, UNDP
- **Ms. Michela Morese**, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO

Clean Cooking as a UN-Energy Priority: Next Steps for Collective Action

- **Ms. Heather Adair-Rohani**, Acting Head - Air Quality, Energy & Health, WHO

Open Discussion

Moderator: Ms. Fanny Missfeldt-Ringius, ESMAP Practice Manager, World Bank

- **Mr. Ed Brown**, MECS Research Director & Professor of Global Energy Challenges, Loughborough University
- **Ms. Arisa Andreani Inagaki**, Communications, Advocacy & Partnerships Analyst, SEforALL
- **Mr. Gurbuz Gonul**, Director, Country Engagement and Partnerships, IRENA

Questions/Comments from Audience

11:00 – 12:45

Room 2

Parallel Session 2

From Energy Burden to Engine of Transition: Centring Equity in the Age of AI

Organizers: SDG7 Youth Constituency & SEforALL

Panellists:

- **Mr. Josh Oxby**, Global Focal Point, SDG 7 Youth Constituency
- **Ms. Ava Strasser**, Gender & Youth Analyst, SEforALL
- **Mr. Casey Weston**, Senior Manager, Public Policy & Economic Graph, LinkedIn
- **Ms. Alankrita Dayal**, North America Focal Point Lead, UN Major Group for Children & Youth
- **Ms. Rana Ghoneim**, Chief, Division of Energy and Climate Action, UNIDO
- **Ms. Dominique Souris**, Head of Climate, Goodwall

13:45 – 14:45

Room 1

Plenary Discussion II

Future Energy Discussions Beyond 2030

Organizers: UN-Energy

Moderator:

- **Mr. Hans Olav Ibrekk**, Special Envoy, Climate and Security, Section for Energy, Climate and Food Security, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and SDG 7 TAG co-Facilitator

Introduction and framing by the UN-Energy Secretariat

Panel discussion:

- **Mr. Kande Yumkella**, Chair of the Presidential Initiative on Climate Change, Renewable Energy and Food Security, Sierra Leone
- **Ms. Rana Adib**, Executive Director, REN21
- **Ms. Sheila Oparaocha**, Executive Director, ENERGIA
- **Mr. Morgan D. Bazilian**, Director of the Payne Institute, Colorado School of Mines
- **Mr. Dhruvak Aggarwal**, Programme Lead, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

Interactive exchange with audience

15:00 – 16:45

Room 1

Parallel Session 3

SDG7 Africa Youth Energy Forum

Organizers: SDG7 Youth Constituency

Opening

- **Ms. Hadiza Abdulmumini**, Global Focal Point, SDG7 Youth Constituency
- **Mr. Richard Matey**, Executive Director, Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO)
- **Ms. Martin Niemetz**, Sustainable Development Officer, UNDESA
- Short Video Showcase of youth led energy projects from the **Youth Sustainable Energy Hub (YSEH)**

Keynote Address

- **Mr. Sarbojit Pal**, Program Manager, Global Matchmaking Platform Secretariat, Energy & Climate Action Division, UNIDO

Youth Innovation Showcase

- **APEN Energy (Nigeria)** – Peer-to-peer solar trading
- **Amperra Charging (Namibia)** – Renewable EV charging
- **Solar-Powered DC Milking Machine (Nigeria)** – Dairy clean-tech
- **WiseCool (Cameroon)** – Solar cold storage & telemedicine
- **SheBlue Initiative (Ghana)** – Ethanol fuel & clean cookstoves

High-Level Panel Discussion - Bridging Skills, Policy, and Investment for a Just Energy Transition

Moderator: **Ms. Nthanda Manduwi**, Founder, Q2 Corporation

- **Ms. Johanna Christine Galan**, Senior Energy Specialist at the World Bank and the Coordinator of the World Bank's Mission 300 implementation unit
- **Ms. Carol Koech**, Vice President for Africa, GEAPP
- **Ms. Habiba Ali**, Managing Director & CEO, Sosai Renewable Energies
- **Ms. Michela Morese**, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO
- **Mr. Simon Benmarraze**, Head of Energy Planning and Modelling, IRENA

Interactive Panel Discussion (including Q&A + remarks from Youth Innovators)

Open Networking

Instructions for networking setup

Networking & Roundtables with partners:

- **Mr. Buay Tut**, Strategy & Partnerships Lead, UNDP Rome Centre
- **Ms. Amy Wickham**, Programme Specialist - Climate, Energy, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction, UNICEF
- **Mr. Sarbojit Pal**, Program Manager, Global Matchmaking Platform Secretariat, Energy & Climate Action Division, UNIDO
- **Ms. Michela Morese**, Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO

Call to Action & Closing

- Presentation of preliminary Youth Energy Position Paper
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- **Ms. Myrah Oloo**, Founder & Lead, Community Education Initiatives, SIAYA County Kenya
- Updates on SDG7 Youth Sustainable Energy Hub

15:00 – 16:30

Room 2

Parallel Session 4

Champions of Change: Accelerating the Renewable Energy Transition

Organizers: REN21

Opening and Welcome

- **Ms. Rana Adib**, Executive Director, REN21
- **Mr. Tomas Anker Christensen**, Cabinet Expert, The European Commission

Keynote Fireside Chat with the Champions

- **Mr. James Fletcher**, Former Energy Minister, Saint Lucia
- **Mr. Ramón Méndez Galain**, Former Energy Secretary, Uruguay

Panel 1: Building Political Confidence in Renewables

Bringing in diverse perspectives

- **Ms. Joyce Kabui**, Energy and Industrialisation Advisor, Government of Kenya
- **Ms. Charley Roberts**, Senior Policy Advisor – Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP), International Energy Finance, E3G
- **Mr. Eamon Ryan**, Former Minister for the Environment, Climate, Communications and Transport, Ireland

Panel 2: Building Partnerships to Accelerate the Shift to Renewables-based economies and societies

Creating win-win scenario/ mutual benefits to accelerate progress

- **Ms. Elizabeth Press**, Director, APRA Implementation Office, UNOPS
- **Ms. Anne Jellema**, CEO, 350.org
- **Ms. Liming Qiao**, CEO and Founder of Future Energy Storage and System Integration Alliance (FESSIA)

Q & A

Closing

- **Mr. James Fletcher**, Former Energy Minister, Saint Lucia
- **Mr. Ramón Méndez Galain**, Former Energy Secretary, Uruguay
- **Ms. Rana Adib**, Executive Director, REN21

DAY 2 Thursday, 25 September

09:00 – 10:00
Room 1

High-level Segment

Welcome remarks

Ms. Bjørg Sandkjær, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination, DESA

Opening by UN-Energy Co-Chairs & Launch of the Energy Compact Progress Report 2025

Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All

Mr. Marcos Neto, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support

Special remarks

H.E. María Erla Marelsdóttir, Climate Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iceland

Launch of the SDG7 Policy Brief on LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS

Ms. Rabab Fatima, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Launch of the SDG7 Policy Brief on Employment

Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director-General, IRENA

High-level Remarks

Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Remarks by the Co-Facilitators of the SDG7 Technical Advisory Group

Ms. Sheila Oparaocha, Executive Director, ENERGIA

10:30 – 12:00
Room 2

Parallel Session 5

Power in Numbers: Leading the Way on Gender Data in Sustainable Energy

Organizers: World Bank & ENERGIA

Welcome address

- **Ms. Fanny Misfeldt-Ringius**, Practice Manager, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), World Bank

Opening remarks

- **Mr. Minoru Takada**, UN-Energy Secretary, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, (UNDESA).

Moderated Discussion

- **Mr. Papa Seck**, Chief of Research and Data Section, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
 - **Mr. Umar Serajuddin**, Manager, Development Data Group, Development Economics, DEC, World Bank
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- **Ms. Jane Cohen**, Senior Programme Manager, People Centered Energy Transition, and **Ms. Konstantina Kalogianni**, Data Expert, International Energy Agency (IEA)
- **Ms. Ainur Dossanova**, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Sustainable Development, BNS, Kazakhstan
- **Mr. Leonardo Souza**, Chief of Energy Statistics Section, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
- **Ms. Samson Bel-Aube Noughbodohoue**, Head of Energy Information System & Statistics Division, African Energy Commission (AFREC)

Q&A (15 min)

Closing remarks

- **Ms. Sheila, Oparaocha**, Director of ENERGIA Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy

10:30 – 12:00
Room 1

Parallel Session 6

Advancing a Just Energy Transition through 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy

Organizers: 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy Compact - SEforALL, GRA & Google

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- **Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi**, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All

Keynote Address: Government perspectives on advancing a Just and Inclusive Energy Transition (JIET) to drive equity and resilience

- **H.E. Mr. Luc Mercelina**, Prime Minister of Sint Maarten
- **H.E. Ms. María Erla Marelsdóttir**, Climate Ambassador, Iceland

Presentation: Report launch - 'Advancing The Just Energy Transition through Clean Energy Procurement'

- **Ms. Sakshi Chandra**, Engagement Officer, SEforALL

High-Level Panel: From Commitment to Delivery – Advancing Equity through 24/7 CFE

Moderator: Divya Kottadiel, Principal Specialist, SEforALL

Panelists:

- **Ms. Naoki Sakai**, CEO, D-Sharing
- **Mr. Alex Piper**, Head of US Policy and Markets, EnergyTag
- **Ms. Julia Souder**, CEO, Long Duration Energy Storage Council
- **Mr. Miguel Muñoz Rodriguez**, Head of Climate Policies and Alliances, Iberdrola
- **Mr. Matt Gray**, CEO, Transition Zero

Q&A

Closing Reflections & Call to Action

- **Ms. Tatiana Molcean**, Executive Secretary, UNECE

13:00 – 14:15 Plenary Discussion III

Room 1 **Promoting Synergies for Accelerated Progress towards SDGs and Paris Agreement**

Organizers: UN DESA and UNFCCC

Welcome remarks by co-convenors

- **Mr. Navid Hanif**, Assistant-Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN DESA
- **Mr. Daniele Violetti**, Senior Programmes Coordinator, UNFCCC (tbc)

2025 Global Report on Climate and SDGs Synergies: Presentation of key findings and recommendations

- **Mr. Luis Gomez Echeverri**, Emeritus Research Scholar and Senior Advisor, Advancing Systems Analysis Program, IIASA; co-lead, Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergies
- **Ms. Elena Rovenskaya**, Program Director and Principal Research Scholar, Advancing Systems Analysis Program, IIASA

Interactive Dialogue: Key Entry Points for Synergistic Action

Moderator:

Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA

Panellists:

- **Mr. Kaveh Guilanpour**, Vice President for International Strategies, Centre for Climate and Energy Solutions; Member, Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy
- **Mr. James Grabert**, Director, Mitigation Division, UN Climate Change Secretariat (tbc)
- **Mr. George Gray Molina**, Head of Inclusive Growth and Chief Economist, UNDP (tbc)
- **Mr. Malcolm Dalesa**, Climate Attaché, Permanent Mission of Vanuatu to the UN
- **Ms. Kashvi Chandok**, Gender equality and climate justice champion; Climate and Energy Fellow, Third Way; Representative, SDG7 Youth Constituency

14:30 – 16:00 Parallel Session 7

Room 1 **Sustainable Energy and Clean Water Access to Ensure Quality Education and Learning Opportunities for All**

Organizers: Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network in collaboration with UN DESA

Moderator:

Mr. Jorge Alvarez-Sala, WASH Specialist, UNICEF

Panellists:

- **Mr. Gonzalo Sáenz de Miera**, Director, Climate Change and Alliances, Iberdrola, Spain

- **Mr. Elias Farah**, Head of Civil Engineering Department, Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK), Lebanon
- **Mr. Gustavo Paredes**, Manager, International Affairs and Sustainability, ASAZGUA, Guatemala
- **Ms. Alejandra Valdivia Espinoza**, Co-founder of Red de Jóvenes por la Transición Energética; Representative, SDG7 Youth Constituency

14:30 – 16:00 Parallel Session 8
Room 2

Just and Inclusive Transition: Evidence-Based Solutions to Advancing Sustainable Economic Growth, Productive Employment and Decent Work for Women and Girls

Organizers: Gender & Energy Compact, co-led by SEforALL, GWNET, Energia, UNIDO

Welcome & Opening Remarks

- **Ms. Ava Strasser**, Gender & Youth Analyst, SEforALL

Context Setting

- **Ms. Sheila Oparaocha**, International Coordinator and Programme Manager, ENERGIA

Keynote Remarks

- **H.E. Ms. María Erla Marelsdóttir**, Climate Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iceland

Panel Discussion

Moderator: **Ms. Laura Garcia Cancino**, Senior Legal Researcher, Columbia Center on Sustainable Investment

- **Ms. Juliette Denis-Senez**, Policy Analyst on People-Centred Clean Energy Transitions, IEA
- **Mr. Josh Oxby**, Energy & Youth Programme Analyst, UNDP

Q&A

Closing Remarks

- **Mr. Martin Niemetz**, Sustainable Development Officer, UNDESA

16:00 – 16:30 Closing
Room 1

UN-ENERGY Members & Partners

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We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners and contributors, whose support has made this year's SDG7 Action Forum possible.



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Economic and Social
Affairs

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Development Goals

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