



UN-Energy Principals Meeting
9 December 2020 – 08:00 to 09:00 (NY Time)
Teleconference

Meeting Summary

UN-Energy member and partner organizations at the Principals level met via conference call on Wednesday, 08:00 - 09:00 EST, 9 December 2020. The list of participants and the agenda are attached in Annex 1 and Annex 2 respectively.

1. Welcome Remarks by the UN-Energy Co-Chairs

- a. Co-Chair Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of UNDP, emphasized that there is a big year ahead in which we have the opportunity to revitalize UN-Energy and help countries to advance SDG7 in its all dimensions in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- b. Co-Chair Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, noted that the High-level Dialogue is a historic moment which should be used to centralize the fragmented energy landscape.

2. High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021 & Strategic Direction for UN-Energy

- a. Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, in his capacity as the Secretary-General for the Dialogue, stressed that there is strong Member State interest and engagement in the High-level Dialogue process. He emphasised that UN-Energy must capitalise on this momentum and support countries in accelerating progress towards SDG7 through ambitious commitments, stronger partnerships and accelerated action on the ground.
- b. Ms. Ogunbiyi presented a proposed UN-Energy Action Plan which includes an UN-Energy pledge to support Member States and their partners to achieve in the next five years specific milestones in support of energy access, energy transition and resilience. Ms. Ogunbiyi then provided an overview of the High-level Dialogue, including its mandate, objectives, expected outcomes and preparatory process. She highlighted the Energy Compacts as a critical tool to solicit and follow-up on voluntary commitments and partnerships. These Compacts are designed to be fully in support of Nationally Determined Contributions and other national development strategies, thereby contributing to UNFCCC/COP26 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. Open Discussion with UN-Energy Principals and other representatives

- a. The participants warmly welcomed the proposed UN-Energy Action Plan including the UN-Energy pledge and called for its swift implementation. They assured their commitment to supporting the High-level Dialogue process. They noted that the revitalization of UN-Energy and the High-level Dialogue are good opportunities to improve interagency coordination. UN-Energy can help to bring together the UN-

System to speak with one voice, with harmonized messaging. It was mentioned that it could be helpful to have a clearer indication of the role of UN-Energy Members and of how resources will be allocated.

- b. Regarding the focus areas for the UN-Energy including in support for the High-level Dialogue, the importance of addressing multiple inter-linked aspects was underlined, including:
 - i. the situation of LDCs which are particularly affected by lack of access to electricity and clean cooking technology and fuels;
 - ii. interlinkages between energy security and food security;
 - iii. increasing urbanisation and the associated energy demand;
 - iv. GHG reduction, including reduction of methane gases;
 - v. regional energy connectivity;
 - vi. just transition;
 - vii. sustainable management of natural resources;
 - viii. rationalizing subsidies and market distortions;
 - ix. energy for displaced persons including the global plan of action for sustainable energy solutions in situations of displacement;
 - x. the interlinkages between energy and health, including air pollution, and relevant on-going work such as the Health and Energy Platform of Action.
- c. On the prospective outcomes of the High-level Dialogue, it was suggested that it should result in strong political commitments and that consultations with Member States on a potential resolution should be begun as soon as possible. It was also mentioned that there is a need for programmes on technical cooperation as to attract support and commitments from Member States and other partners.
- d. Many Principals and their representatives expressed their readiness to contribute to the High-level Dialogue. It was noted that the secretariat would be in touch at the technical level to follow up on the respective commitments made during the meeting or communicated separately in writing.
- e. The need to create synergy between the High-level Dialogue and other processes and events was highlighted. It was recommended to further clarify the link between the High-level Dialogue and UNFCCC/COP26 and to align closely the Energy Compacts with the NDCs. The upcoming IRENA Assembly, the Vienna Energy Forum and the Annual International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development were mentioned as platforms in support of the High-level Dialogue. The UNLDC-V conference, which will take place in January 2022, was also highlighted.

4. Closing and Next Steps

- a. The Co-Chairs, joined by USG for DESA as the UN-Energy secretariat, urged all to significantly step up their efforts in the next 10 months, underlining that the achievement of SDG7 is absolutely necessary to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050.

ANNEX 1: Participants List

UN-Energy Meeting at Principals Level 9 December 2020 – 08:00 to 09:00 (NY Time)

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Participants List

Co-Chairs:

SRSRG for Sustainable Energy for All - Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi

UNDP - Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator

Secretariat:

DESA - Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General

Members and partners

1. ECE - Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary
2. ESCAP – Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Executive Secretary
3. FAO – Mr. QU Dongyu, Director General
4. IAEA - Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director-General
5. IRENA– Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director General
6. UN-Habitat – Ms. Maimunah Sharif, Executive Director
7. UNIDO - Mr. Li Yong, Director General
8. UN-OHRLLS - Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under-Secretary-General
9. WMO - Mr. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General
10. UNITAR - Mr. Nikhil Seth, Executive Director
11. UNFCCC - Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary
12. UNEP - Ms. Joyce Msuya, Deputy Executive Director
13. The World Bank – Mr. Demetrios Papathanasiou, Global Director of Energy and Extractives
14. WHO – Ms. Maria Neira, Director, Department of Environmental and Social Determinants of Health.
15. UNICEF - Mr. Sanjay Wijesekara, Director, Programme Division
16. IFAD – Ms. Teresa Liu, Director, Liaison Office NY
17. ESCWA – Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy
18. ECA – Mr. Linus Mofor, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer
19. UN Women – Ms. Carla Kraft, Policy Specialist, Sustainable Development

ANNEX 2: Agenda



UN-Energy Principals Meeting
9 December 2020, 08:00 (New York time)

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Draft Agenda

Opening

1. Welcome remarks by the UN-Energy Co-Chairs

Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of UNDP, UN-Energy Co-Chair, and Co-Chair of the High-level Dialogue on Energy

Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, UN-Energy Co-Chair, and Co-Chair of the High-level Dialogue on Energy

High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021 and Strategic direction and Revitalisation for UN-Energy

2. Remarks by the Secretary-General for the High-level Dialogue on Energy

Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

3. Presentation on the High-level Dialogue on Energy and the Strategic Direction and Revitalization for UN-Energy

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

Open discussions

4. Open Discussions with the UN-Energy Principals and other Representatives

Closing and Next steps

5. Next steps

UN-Energy Co-Chairs

UN-Energy Secretariat (USG for DESA)

6. Closing by the UN-Energy Co-Chairs