

UN-Energy Meeting at Principal level

13 September 2023 – 11:00-11:45 AM EDT (NY time)

Meeting Summary

UN-Energy member and partner organizations met at the principal level via conference call on Wednesday, 13 September 2023, 11:00 - 11:45 EDT. The agenda and the speaker list are attached as Annex 1 and Annex 2.

1. Welcome remarks

The UN-Energy leadership, Mr. Achim Steiner, UN Administrator, and Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, and Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, welcomed participants and underlined the opportunity of this current meeting to make UN-Energy a stronger driver of coherent, coordinated and joint actions.

2. Interactive discussion

Having reached the midpoint of the SDGs, as highlighted by the SDG Summit, the world is not on track to achieve these objectives, while on the current trajectory, the 1.5°C tipping point above pre-industrial levels will be overshoot by 2035. Immediate action is a must. UN-Energy must lead the way in raising ambition and catalyzing scaled up action. To this end, several proposals were presented:

- **Jump start joint energy access activities:** Immediate action by UN-Energy is crucial to achieve the 2025 milestones for access to electricity and clean cooking in line with the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 action. The UN-Energy Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF) should be immediately revived in line with the UN-Energy Plan of Action towards 2025 and provide pooled resources for joint actions for energy access by UN-Energy entities, starting with 5 countries.
- **Scale-up Energy Compacts:** The Energy Compacts are a recognized powerful vehicle to expedite progress on achieving universal energy access and just, inclusive and equitable energy transitions aligned with SDG7 and the UN Secretary General's Climate Action Acceleration Agenda. Having already reached USD 1.3 Trillion in commitments and featuring as a high-impact initiative in support of the SDG Summit, the Energy Compacts need to be scaled-up even further.
- **Leverage the diversity of its membership:** It is necessary to develop collaborative energy projects that leverage the diversity and the respective comparative advantages of its members relevant to not only SDG7 but also many other SDGs.
- **Create more synergies with climate discussions:** UN-Energy must take full advantage of COP28 to create closer synergies, including with regard to the NDCs.

3. Way Forward and Closing

The proposals raised in the discussions were fully endorsed. It was agreed that work towards realizing them must commence immediately. A representative of EOSG joined the UN-Energy leadership and secretariat in welcoming the agreed course of action and thanking all. The UN-Energy Co-chairs and the Secretariat thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and adjourned the meeting.

ANNEX 1: Agenda



UN-Energy Meeting at Principal Level

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Virtual Meeting

Draft Agenda

With only seven years left to achieve the SDGs, the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is in peril. The fragility of past hard-earned progress has been compounded by the climate crisis, conflict, a gloomy global economic outlook and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The climate crisis is worsening as greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise. Global temperatures are likely to reach the critical 1.5°C tipping point above pre-industrial levels by 2035.

Energy is an essential ingredient for getting the world on track towards meeting the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The review of SDG7 at the 2023 HLPF has underscored that although currently off track, it is still possible to achieve SDG7 by 2030 through rapid acceleration of global efforts in the next 7.5 years.

UN-Energy set out to contribute to these global efforts through the implementation of its Plan of Action Towards 2050 in support of the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action which resulted from the High-level Dialogue on Energy. In the run-up to the SDG Summit; the SDG Acceleration Day, which will feature the High-impact Initiative on Energy Compacts; the Climate Ambition Summit; and COP28; this Principals meeting will be an important opportunity to look at the progress achieved thus far, and to jointly reflect on the way forward for UN-Energy to deliver on its Plan of Action and how to contribute to getting on track for the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

Guiding question: *Building on its accomplishments so far, what are the next steps for UN-Energy to take in the next one year to further accelerate the achievement of SDG7 and net-zero by 2050?*

11:00 – 11:10 Welcome remarks

- Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of UNDP and UN-Energy Co-Chair
- Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy Co-Chair
- Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

11:10 – 11:40 Discussion

- Interventions by Principals

11:40 – 11:45 Closing

- Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of UNDP and UN-Energy Co-Chair
- Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy Co-Chair
- Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

ANNEX 2: Speaker list

UN-Energy leadership

1. **Mr. Achim Steiner**, Administrator of UNDP and UN-Energy Co-Chair
2. **Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and UN-Energy Co-Chair
3. **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

UN-Energy Principals/Deputies

4. **Mr. Simon Stiell**, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC
5. **Mr. Francesco La Camera**, Director-General, IRENA
6. **Mr. Guangzhe Chen**, Vice-President for Infrastructure, World Bank
7. **Mr. Antonio Pedro**, Acting Executive Secretary, UN ECA
8. **Mr. Michal Mlynár**, Deputy Executive Director, UN-Habitat
9. **Mr. Mikhail Chudakov**, Deputy Director General, IAEA
10. **Ms. Ligia Noronha**, UN Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York Office

Messages from UN-Energy Principals

11. **Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana**, Executive Secretary, UN ESCAP (video)
12. **Ms. Tatiana Molcean**, Executive Secretary, UN ECE (video)
13. **Mr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**, Director-General, WHO (conveyed by Ms. Maria Neira, Director of the Department of Public Health and Environment, WHO)
14. **Ms. Catherine Russell**, Executive Director, UNICEF (conveyed by Mr. George Laryea-Adjei, Director, Programme Group, UNICEF)
15. **Mr. Gerd Müller**, Director General, UNIDO (conveyed by Ms. Rana Ghoneim, Chief of the Energy Systems and Infrastructure Division, UNIDO)
16. **Ms. Rola Dashti**, Executive Secretary, UN ESCWA (conveyed by Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief of the Energy Section, Cluster of Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability, UN ESCWA)
17. **Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs**, Executive Secretary, UN ECLAC (conveyed by Ms. Rayen Quiroga, Chief of the Water and Energy Unit, UN ECLAC)
18. **Mr. Qu Dongyu**, Director-General, FAO (conveyed by Ms. Michela Morese, Energy Team Leader, FAO)

EOSG Remarks

19. **Ms. Lara Blanco**, Deputy Director, Sustainable Development Unit, EOSG