

## **1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Technical Working Group on Energy Transition**

**22 February 2021 – 8:00 to 11:00 AM (NY Time)**

### **Teleconference: Draft Summary**

#### **1. Opening Remarks**

Mr. Francesco La Camera, Director-General, IRENA, welcomed 82 participants and set the tone for the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the technical working group on energy transition urging for global action. Outlining the realities of energy vulnerabilities and inequalities that have worsened since Covid-19, Mr. La Camera called on all participants to come together in shaping an action agenda for an energy transition that is guided by the agenda 2030, and the Paris Agreement.

#### **2. Overview of High-Level Dialogue (HLD) Energy 2021**

Mr. Minoru Takada, Team Leader Secretariat of the High-Level Dialogue, UNDESA, introduced the objectives of the Working group, highlighting that this is the first high level dialogue mandated from the UN General Secretary to promote the implementation of energy goals and targets since 1981. The Technical Working Group on Energy Transition will be led by IRENA UNEP, and UN ESCAP. TWG will meet four times. The second meeting is to be convened in the week of **April 12** where a first draft is expected to be discussed.

#### **3. Accelerating Energy Transition: Role of TWG 2 and Presentation of Concept Note**

On behalf of the Co-Leads, Ms. Elizabeth Press, Director, Planning and Programme Support, IRENA, and Mr. Mark Radka, UNEP, Chief, Energy, Climate and Technology Branch, highlighted that the tasks for the energy transition team, will be merging the discussion around SDG 7 and the decarbonization of the energy sector, with particular focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as phasing out coal-fired power plants. The team will also be embracing a broader strategy beyond the power sector to cover the end use specifically in transport, buildings and hard-to-abate sectors.

#### **4. Open Discussion**

Open discussion included a diverse group of 30 TWG members, Global Theme Champion representatives and UN-Energy member organization representatives that made significant contributions on a wide range of important issues relevant for reaching SDG 7 and the Paris Agreement. Overall attention from TWG members was focused on how to turn urgency into action. Some of the common actions themes that emerged from the discussion included the need for developing an enabling and just environment centered on co-ownership for a decarbonization transition that leaves no one behind, greater focus on information sharing, electrification of transport, embracing CCUS technologies, setting clear targets and green public policies that ensure greater access to energy, and better energy efficiency that allows for the possibility of building back better following COVID19. Africa's Agenda 2063 was also highlighted as a guiding document alongside the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The need for clean cooking options in Africa was also stressed. Bioenergy was noted as one of the key solutions for a successful energy transition. The diversity of country needs, abilities and priorities and strategies was noted as strikingly unique and varied in scope. All representatives called for swift and concerted action between states to make necessary progress and enhance SDG 13 simultaneously.

## 5. Conclusion and Next steps

Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, UN ESCAP, thanked all the country champions, the members of the working group for an insightful rich discussion that consisted of over 30 interventions. He praised the diversity of the group which provided good technical input and helped mark a solid foundation towards the next working group meetings. Mr. Hongpeng Liu emphasized the need for the alignment of SDGs with climate objectives, highlighting the co-benefits of a good transition and reiterated the urgent call for action, and above all else to be realistic, but absolutely optimistic in order to put forward messages on which governments and other actors can act.

- An annotated outline will be circulated to the members for review by **15 March**.
- The next meeting of the TWG will take place in the week of **12 April**.
- Structured exchanges between the TWGs are to take place **end of April**.
- The Group will conclude its work in a final meeting in the week of **17 May**.