



**United
Nations**



UN-ENERGY HIGHLIGHTS

IMPLEMENTING THE UN-ENERGY PLAN OF ACTION TOWARDS 2025

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UN-Energy was established by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2004 as the United Nations' mechanism for inter-agency collaboration in the field of energy. It aims to promote coherence in the UN system's multi-disciplinary response to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, and to enhance coordination and collaborative actions within the United Nations with regards to policy development and implementation as well as knowledge sharing in the area of energy. UN-Energy reports to the CEB through the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP).

UN-Energy brings together some 30 organizations that are global leaders in their respective fields, covering together all aspects of energy and sustainable development. UN-Energy organizations are presently working with over 190 countries, employing a staff contingent of well over 100,000 globally. Offering a host of services and programmes at the global, regional and national levels, UN-Energy organizations are key partners for all stakeholders working towards SDG 7.

Following the launch of the UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025 on 4 May 2022, this first edition of the UN-Energy Highlights illustrates the breadth of activities UN-Energy members are engaged in, focusing on cooperative efforts in supporting the achievement of SDG 7 and net-zero emissions. These highlights demonstrate the significant potential of implementing the Plan of Action, which provides clear guidance for further strengthening cooperation among UN-Energy members.

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UN-ENERGY MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

MEMBERS (UN ENTITIES)



FAO



IAEA
IAEA



IFAD
Enabling poor rural people to overcome poverty



ILO



UNCDF



UNCTAD



DESA

UNDESA



UNDP



UNECA



UNECE



UNECLAC



UNEP



UNESCAP



UNESCO



UNESCWA



UNFCCC



UNFPA



UN-HABITAT



UNICEF



UNIDO



UNITAR



UN-OHRLS



UN WOMEN



WFP



WHO



WMO



THE WORLD BANK

WORLD BANK

PARTNERS (NON-UN ENTITIES)



IRENA



SEFORALL

SECRETARIAT

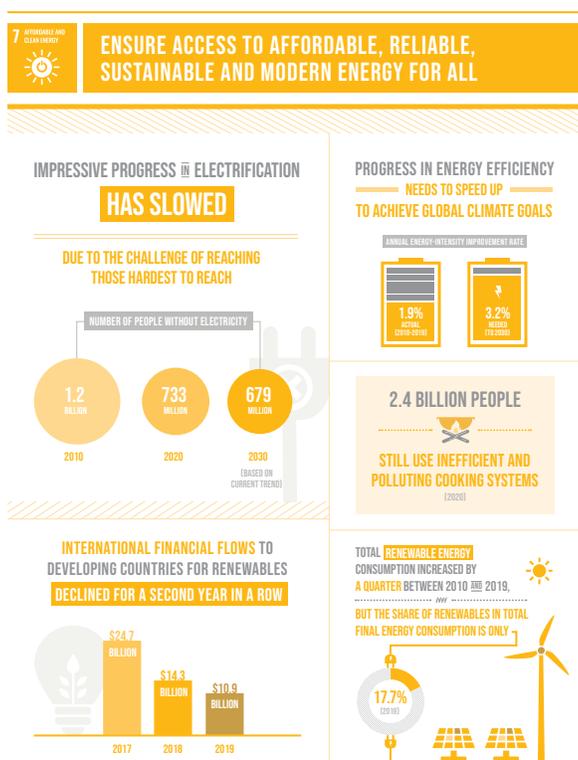


UNDESA

THE GLOBAL CONTEXT:

ADVANCING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy is key to addressing some of the greatest challenges humanity is facing today. Indeed, access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is fundamental to human development and the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a shift towards sustainable energy solutions is essential to the achievement of the Paris Agreement on climate change.



The importance of energy is further emphasized by the multiple and interlinked global crises the world is currently facing – the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and the impacts of the conflict in Ukraine and elsewhere – which are putting the very viability of achieving the SDGs by 2030 at great risk. Notably, the current slowdown of global economic growth, growing impacts of climate change and soaring energy prices are hitting hardest those most in need: least developed countries and marginalized populations all over the world.

Realizing the potential of energy will require efforts at unprecedented levels by all relevant stakeholders worldwide with available low-carbon resources. Significant challenges persist: globally, 733 million people were still lacking access to electricity in 2020. Meeting the 2030 target requires increasing the number of new connections by 100 million a year. Moreover, 2.4 billion people still lacked access to clean cooking fuels and technology in 2020.

In terms of renewable energy, globally there were already close to three terawatts of renewable energy capacity in 2020, representing nearly 29% of all power generation, and renewables accounted for 82% of newly installed capacity that year. However, fossil fuels still made up about 60% of global power generation capacity. In addition, the current average annual rate of energy efficiency improvement must increase from the current 0.8% to 3.0%.

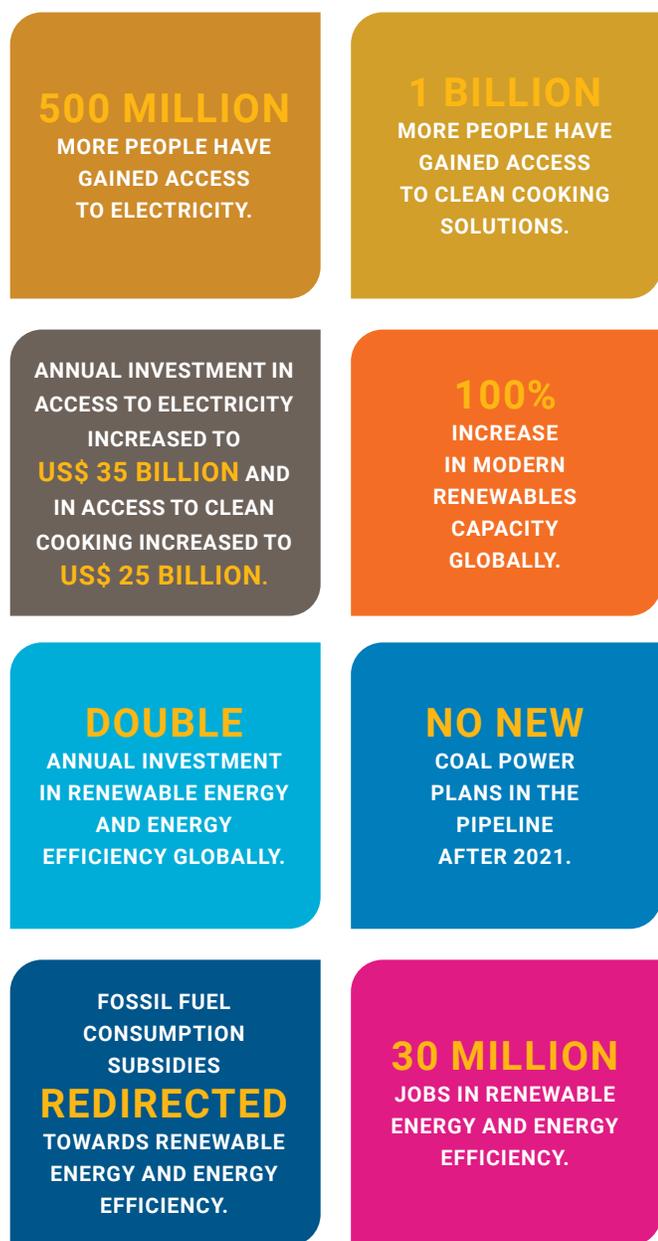
Notably, global annual investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency must be at least tripled. International financial flows to developing countries in support of clean energy in particular require attention, as they amounted to only \$10.9 billion in 2019. This was a decrease for the second year in a row. Financial flows were lower particularly in the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States.

Clearly, much more needs to be done to achieve universal energy access and a just and inclusive energy transition that would effectively support the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

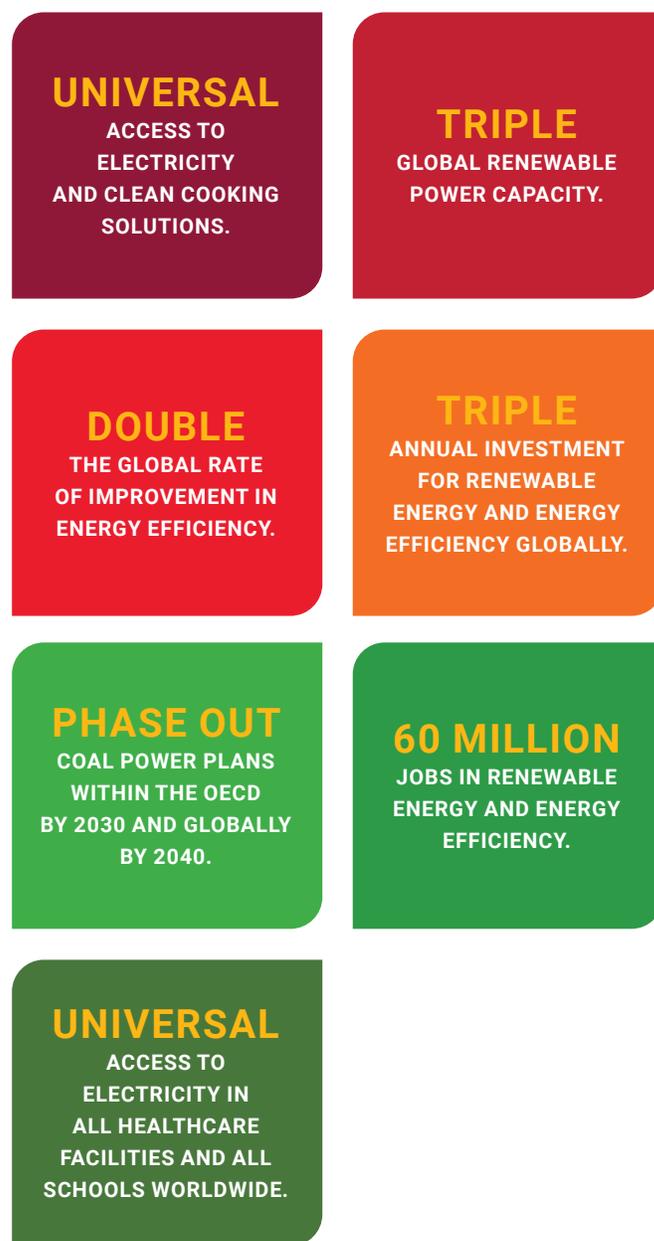
Strengthening synergies with global climate action, including through the UNFCCC COP process, will further catalyse impact. Indeed, the twin challenges of energy access and energy transition cannot be solved through piecemeal efforts. Rather, a globally coordinated response that goes beyond incremental changes is needed.

The Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 Action resulting from the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy in 2021 provides an invaluable guide for collective action on energy across sectors that transcends individual and piecemeal approaches and delivers scaled-up and broad impact. It calls for action in five key areas: closing the energy access gap; rapidly transitioning to decarbonized energy systems; mobilizing adequate and predictable finance; leaving no one behind on the path to a net-zero future; and harnessing innovation, technology and data. Importantly, the Roadmap also includes two sets of milestones for 2025 and 2030.

2025 MILESTONES



2030 MILESTONES



THE UN-ENERGY PLAN OF ACTION TOWARDS 2025

The UN must play a key role in supporting stakeholders in the implementation of the Global Roadmap. Indeed, the Roadmap emphasizes that 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.”

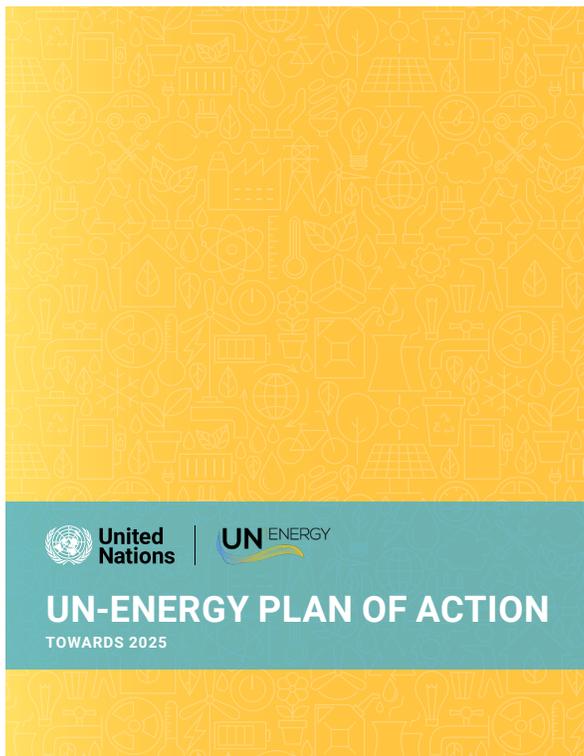
In response to this, UN-Energy came together to determine how best it could support the implementation of the Global Roadmap. Following in-depth deliberations among its members,

the UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025 was launched on 4 May 2022. The Plan of Action guides UN-Energy’s activities in the upcoming years, providing clarity, focus and expected deliverables which enable UN-Energy to make a crucial difference by accelerating action worldwide in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

In implementing the Plan of Action, UN-Energy will build on the ongoing efforts of its member organizations. For example, in 2021, 2.4 million rural households in 33 countries benefited from clean, affordable and sustainable energy as the result of efforts supported by UNDP, a member of UN-Energy. From 2017-2021, the World Bank, a member of UN-Energy, committed over USD 8.4 billion of financing for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in developing countries while also helping to mobilize private capital for the sector. More than 48GW of variable renewable energy were added to grids to help communities, businesses, and economies thrive. Moreover, UN-Energy member

UNIDO’s support for efforts to increase energy efficiency led to more than 90 GWh of savings in 2020 alone. These leading efforts and other relevant initiatives will be fully leveraged to scale up collective efforts by UN-Energy.

The UN-Energy Plan of Action determines that building on ongoing activities, UN-Energy will scale up activities in five key areas: growing the momentum, accelerating action, catalysing multi-stakeholder action, informing the global agenda, and tracking and sharing results.



IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN: UN-ENERGY IN ACTION

GROWING THE MOMENTUM

UN-Energy plays a crucial role in mobilizing and coordinating a global mass movement in support of the implementation of the Global Roadmap.

THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY

This includes UN-Energy's support to the High-level Dialogue on Energy convened by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, which gathered more than 130 global leaders, including Heads of States and Government, Ministers, and other stakeholders, in 2021. Marking a historic milestone as the first global meeting on energy under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in 40 years, the Dialogue presented a unique opportunity to inspire and commit to transformative action. UN-Energy was key to the success of the Dialogue, including through the leadership demonstrated by its members in the consultative process and the development of the five Thematic Reports which provided the analytical basis for the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 Action.



THE GLOBAL SDG 7 ACTION FORUM

The High-level Dialogue on Energy filled a gap by offering a global, inclusive platform that brought together all countries and a broad range of stakeholders to initiate a discussion on SDG 7 in support of the 2030 Agenda and net-zero emissions. To continue this dialogue and sustain the momentum achieved, an annual Global SDG 7 Action Forum is being established, supported by UN-Energy. The first edition of the Forum will be held on 23 September 2022, on the margins of the UN General Assembly High-level Week in New York. It will bring together global leaders from government, as well as prominent actors from business and industry, cities and regions, civil society and other stakeholders to review progress, strengthen advocacy, support action on the ground and stimulate transformative insights and action. By providing the most inclusive global multi-stakeholder platform dedicated to the implementation of SDG 7, this Forum will strengthen global dialogue, enhance global advocacy and accelerate the sharing of experiences by all stakeholders to optimize their efforts, while promoting coherence and collaboration across sectors.

GLOBAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Global SDG 7 Action Forum will build on the discussions of other global platforms and processes provided by its members, such as the UNFCCC COP, IRENA Assembly, the Humanitarian Energy Conference and the Vienna Energy Forum. Notably, the SEforALL Forum 2022, co-hosted by the Government of Rwanda, brought together over 1000 attendees focused on advancing a clean and inclusive energy transition around the world and included the announcement of several new commitments and initiatives to support energy access and transition, with approximately USD 347 million in finance commitments put forward by SEforALL's partners. Outreach at the regional level will continue to be key to growing the momentum, including through such events as the first Asia-Pacific Regulatory Forum on Power System Connectivity organized by UNESCAP in 2022, the third ministerial-level Asian and Pacific Energy Forum to be organized by UNESCAP in 2023, and the Arab Regional Forum on Climate Initiatives to Finance Climate Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), hosted by UNESCWA.

ACCELERATING ACTION

Work is ongoing to further develop and implement joint programmes supported by UN-Energy, significantly scaling up collective UN system action and collaboration with Member States and other stakeholders. UN-Energy members are already cooperating on many concrete programmes and projects which contribute towards the achievement of SDG 7 and net-zero emissions, such as the selected highlights featured below.

OFF-GRID ELECTRIFICATION

One area of focus has been expanding cooperation on mini-grids as an effective tool for the electrification of rural and remote areas. Building on the Africa Minigrids Programme (AMP), UNDP has launched Action Opportunities pre-feasibility studies in 21 African countries which will serve as a foundation for UN-Energy to collectively address the energy deficit, help identify country-specific needs, and work together towards mobilizing the right partnerships to close the energy access gap. In the Arab region, UNESCWA's Regional Initiative to Promote Small-Scale Renewable Energy Technologies and Applications in Rural Areas of the Arab Region (REGEND) has implemented 31 rural energy projects with 2,900 beneficiaries across three countries.

MODERN COOKING SOLUTIONS

Many UN-Energy members are cooperating in taking action towards universal access to clean cooking solutions and technology. For example, the 'Modern Cooking Solutions in Chad and beyond project', led by WFP in collaboration with UNHCR and UNEP, analysed the energy access situation for refugees and host communities, and implemented an LPG cooking intervention with local partners.

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, and the Joint Environmental Unit (JEU) of OCHA and UNEP implemented together in Burundi, Chad and Sudan a project to strengthen adaptation to climate change in sub-Saharan African humanitarian situations, which included the distribution of household stoves in refugee camps and institutional stoves in schools, as well as tree-planting for a sustainable firewood supply. In Southeast Asia, UNEP and UNESCAP worked together to support policymakers across the region by developing best practices for sustainable cooling, including the development of National Cooling Action Plans for selected countries.

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

Accelerating action is particularly urgent in the least developed countries, in which half a billion people still lack electricity access. With the support of UNOHRLLS, the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries adopted on 17 March 2022 the Doha Programme for Action (DPoA) for the Least Developed Countries, which identifies access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy as a top priority.

CATALYSING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ACTION

Implementing the Global Roadmap requires all stakeholders to accelerate action, including Member States, business and industry, civil society, the scientific community, cities and regional governments, as each stakeholder group has an important and distinct value-added that can complement and bolster overall efforts. UN-Energy has a central role to play in catalysing the required multi-stakeholder action. By mobilizing voluntary commitments from all stakeholders and providing an effective tool for driving holistic and inclusive action, the Energy Compacts are a key vehicle to translate the Global Roadmap into concrete actions and partnerships. The High-level Dialogue on Energy triggered the registration of over 200 Energy Compacts with voluntary commitments of over US\$ 600 billion in investment by governments and the private sector alone. Notably, several UN-Energy member and partner organizations also submitted Energy Compacts, including FAO, IAEA, IRENA, SEforALL, UNDP, UNESCAP, UNIDO, WMO and the World Bank.



ENERGY COMPACT ACTION NETWORK

To provide an anchor for the Energy Compact process and to build further momentum, UN-Energy launched on 4 May 2022 the Energy Compact Action Network. The Network offers a framework for bringing new stakeholders on board, fostering coalition-building, and driving a continuous increase in ambition and accelerated action, while catalysing the finance and investment required. The Network also creates a marketplace to connect requests of support with offers and provides its members with opportunities to showcase outstanding leadership and innovative practices, while working towards scaling up best practices. It offers a strategic lever to continue to mobilize

thousands of multi-stakeholder partners that can drive action deeper and faster, as well as catalysing multi-billion-dollar investments for the benefit of billions of people. Following its launch, the first meeting of the Energy Compact Action Network on 14 July 2022 brought together over 100 representatives to discuss the progress made. Data has been collected from the membership in order to create the foundation for an annual progress report of the Energy Compact Action Network.

GLOBAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

The global Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA), convened by WHO (secretariat), UNDP, UN DESA and the World Bank, has over 20 members including governments, international, non-governmental and civil society organizations, business associations, philanthropic foundations, and academic institutions. With an initial focus on clean cooking and health-care facility electrification, the Platform aims to catalyse the scale of results required to achieve SDG 3 on health and SDG 7 on energy by enhanced political and technical cooperation among actors in the health, energy and other sectors. In the last two years, HEPA members contributed to more than 50 events at eleven high-level or global multi-stakeholder meetings to advocate for health and energy linkages. HEPA members have piloted innovative finance mechanisms in nearly 20 countries, and more than 30 countries have received technical support on assessments, strategies, plans and policies that focused on interlinkages between health and clean energy for households and health facilities. Moreover, the Global Platform for Action on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings (GPA), steered by UN and INGO humanitarian organizations such as UNITAR, UNHCR, IOM, WFP, UNDP, SEforALL and others, are working towards boosting action in support of SDG 7 in displacement settings. The Energy Delivery Models (EDM) training is GPA's latest blended learning programme to build capacities of humanitarian practitioners to design sustainable energy projects in displacement situations. The training programme ran throughout 2020-2021, training over 60 humanitarian staff from organizations such as WFP, UNHCR, NRC, IOM and the GIZ, and resulting in the development of 10 projects focusing on improving energy access for displaced and hosting communities.

INFORMING THE GLOBAL AGENDA

By harnessing the UN system's collective strengths, UN-Energy can provide analytical inputs for intergovernmental dialogues, share knowledge, and document best practices on policy options, institutional arrangements, finance, technologies and monitoring in response to a fast-moving global energy discourse. UN-Energy members are cooperating on a number of analytical products which offer crucial information in support of advancing SDG 7.

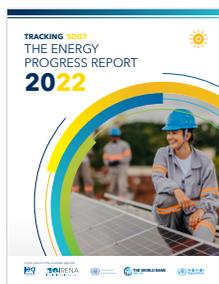


THEME REPORTS FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY

Having served as the Co-Chairs of Technical Working Groups which brought together over 140 multi-stakeholder experts, UN-Energy members led the development of the five Theme Reports for the High-level Dialogue on Energy on energy access; energy transition; enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions; innovation, technology and data; and finance and investment.

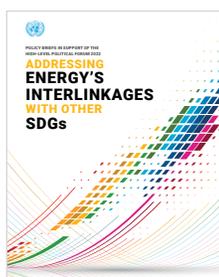
TRACKING PROGRESS

Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report is developed each year jointly by several UN-Energy organizations (IRENA, UNSD, WHO and the World Bank, together with the IEA). It provides the most comprehensive look available at the world's progress towards global energy targets on access to electricity, clean cooking, renewable energy and energy efficiency and gives the international community the latest global dashboard to register progress on the SDG 7 targets.



INFORMING THE HLPF

The annual *SDG7 Policy Briefs* in support of the High-level Political Forum provide recommendations to policy makers, including with a focus on the interlinkages of energy with other SDGs. Many UN-Energy members work together in the development of the annual SDG 7 Policy Briefs, which are compiled by the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group convened by UNDESA.



STATE OF CLIMATE SERVICES 2022

Drawing on the contributions of several UN-Energy members, WMO prepares annually the report on the "State of Climate Services". This year, the report is focused on the energy sector and will assess the current delivery of climate services, explore the degree of exposure of the energy infrastructure to weather extremes and climate change, and identify the climate services needed to assess infrastructure risk levels. The report will be launched during a high-level event on 11 October 2022 in Geneva, and there will be a high-level side event organized at COP27.

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT REPORT ON HEALTHCARE FACILITY ELECTRIFICATION

WHO, World Bank, SEforALL and IRENA will release this year the first global assessment report on healthcare facility electrification. The publication will provide an authoritative and comprehensive review of the state of electricity access in low-income and middle-income countries and key actions to accelerate electrification of health-care facilities. This report will also serve as a benchmark to track progress of future efforts by HEPA to electrify health facilities.



STATE OF THE HUMANITARIAN ENERGY SECTOR

The Global Platform for Action on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings (GPA), led by UNITAR, UNHCR, IOM, WFP, UNDP, SEforALL and other organizations, has published the State of the Humanitarian Energy Sector report. It reveals that an estimated 94% of displaced people in camps do not have access to electricity and 81% rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking. The report estimates that an investment of 10 billion USD from 2022-2030 will be necessary to cover all refugee energy needs globally, and calls for action from all stakeholders to improve the energy situation.

TRACKING AND SHARING RESULTS

UN-Energy is leveraging the power of data, digitalisation and visualisation for strengthening monitoring, tracking, accountability and the communication of results.

THE UN-ENERGY WEBSITE

The foundation for these activities is a compelling and accessible web presence. To this end, the UN-Energy website is undergoing constant improvements. Notably, work has started on compiling a dynamic overview towards the milestones of the Global Roadmap, building on existing tools for tracking and monitoring, including Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report, the work of the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group and other relevant efforts.

ENERGY COMPACT REGISTRY

In the framework of the Energy Compact Action Network, UN-Energy has also developed an online registry for the Energy Compacts and is further advancing the development and application of transparent monitoring frameworks on their implementation.



MOVING FORWARD

Delivering effective results in support of the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG 7 Action will not only spur progress on energy for sustainable development, but it will also 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. By strengthening cooperation and coordination among its membership, and mobilizing multi-stakeholder action, UN-Energy can inspire and catalyse the level of action required to set the world on a pathway towards a sustainable energy future.

The UN-Energy Highlights presented here illustrate the breadth of activities in which UN-Energy members are engaged, focusing on cooperative efforts in supporting the achievement of SDG 7 and net-zero emissions. The UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025 provides clear guidance for further strengthening cooperation among UN-Energy members. In this, UN-Energy will also make use of the opportunities provided by upcoming global consultative processes. Notably, effectively linking energy and climate action will be key to the success of the UNFCCC COP process, including the upcoming COP27 in Egypt and COP28 in the United Arab Emirates. Moreover, a global stocktaking which is envisaged for 2024 as part of the ongoing implementation of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All will be instrumental to further accelerate progress towards SDG 7.





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