



UN-Energy Meeting (technical level)

19 March 2025, 08:30 – 10:00 EDT (NY Time)

Virtual meeting

Meeting Summary

UN-Energy members and partner organizations met virtually at the technical level on 19 March 2025, 08:30 to 10:00 EDT. The agenda is attached in [Annex 1](#). The list of participants is attached in [Annex 2](#).

1. Welcome

The Secretariat opened the meeting by welcoming UN-Energy members and partner organizations and introduced the agenda. Emphasis was placed on the urgency of advancing Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) in the face of persistent geopolitical, financial, and development challenges. With less than six years remaining to achieve the 2030 Agenda, participants were reminded of the need for accelerated and coordinated efforts to deliver on commitments.

The extension of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All to 2030 was reaffirmed as a shared platform to drive momentum. Key global milestones were highlighted, including the third review of SDG 7 at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and the SDG Summit in 2027, which will shape the post-2030 agenda.

Momentum from the Paris Agreement's Global Stocktake and new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) were cited as opportunities to integrate energy access and transition into broader climate and development efforts.

The Secretariat also recalled UN-Energy's collective commitment made during the High-Level Dialogue on Energy and expressed through the UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025, notably the "Joint Voluntary Commitment" to support 500 million people in gaining access to electricity and 1 billion people to clean cooking solutions.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

3. Taking Stock of Progress, Lessons Learned, Challenges, and Opportunities

The Secretariat provided an overview of the current context for efforts to advance progress on SDG7. Further, the Secretariat introduced the following key questions and initiated a discussion.

In which areas has UN-Energy achieved progress, and where is it lacking?

What challenges does your organization face in implementing its mandate in the current global context? How does this impact its work on energy?

UN-Energy members highlighted:

Key progress in advancing the SDG 7 agenda:

- UN-Energy has successfully elevated the political prominence of energy within the broader sustainable development framework, reinforcing its interlinkages with other global priorities. This has provided strategic direction not only for UN Member States but also for a wide range of stakeholders beyond the UN system.
- The Energy Compacts have mobilized over \$1.4 trillion in voluntary commitments to accelerate progress towards SDG 7.
- UN-Energy has played a pivotal role in supporting analytical work, intergovernmental dialogues, and multi-stakeholder initiatives to advance the sustainable energy agenda.

Challenges and Impacts:

- Significant gaps in energy access remain, with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) continuing to receive a disproportionately small share of international energy financing.
- Sector-specific and regional challenges persist, particularly in the areas of clean cooking access and the productive use of energy in developing regions, requiring targeted action to accelerate progress. Geopolitical fragmentation and the ongoing liquidity crisis are expected to further constrain the enabling environment for advancing SDG 7 implementation.
- Persistent funding shortfalls, including concerns over declining development finance contributions from major donors, are undermining the capacity of UN agencies to effectively deliver on their mandates.
- Enhanced coordination and collaboration across the UN system are essential to optimize impact and ensure the efficient use of limited resources.
- The reduced frequency of UN-Energy meetings and the absence of a dedicated trust fund or financing mechanism are impeding efforts to scale up joint initiatives.

Participants agreed on the importance of documenting progress and showcasing the actions taken by UN-Energy organizations toward fulfilling the collective commitments outlined in the current UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025. This includes clearly presenting achievements in terms of milestones reached, partnerships formed, and outcomes delivered, providing a solid foundation for future planning.

4. Establishing an UN-Energy Action Plan Towards 2030

In a second round of interventions, UN-Energy Members addressed the questions:

How can UN-Energy best advance progress on SDG 7 in support of achieving the 2030 Agenda?

What should be the priorities for a UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2030?

Advancing Progress on SDG 7:

- The importance of convening more frequent in-person meetings and a dedicated retreat was underscored to facilitate deeper discussions, strategic planning, and enhanced coordination among UN-Energy members.
- Preparatory work ahead of the retreat was recommended to ensure a clear and results-oriented agenda, including drawing lessons from other UN initiatives such as UN-Water.
- Strengthening collaboration and establishing clear roles and responsibilities within the UN system was highlighted as essential, with a focus on aligning efforts with existing platforms and processes beyond UN-Energy.
- Enhancing engagement and support for Member States—such as through the annual UN General Assembly resolutions on energy—was proposed as a means to better align UN-Energy’s work with national priorities.

Priorities for an UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2030:

- Prioritizing support for the most vulnerable countries and regions lagging in SDG 7 progress, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in Africa.
- Expanding the focus beyond energy access to include applications of energy in key sectors such as agriculture, rural development, and productive uses.
- Paying more attention to and working more on the agenda of critical minerals as this is crucial for supporting the energy transition.
- Addressing financing barriers by exploring opportunities to better access larger funding mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- Reinvigorating the UN-Energy MPTF.
- Promoting innovation, technology transfer, and industrial development related to renewable energy and energy efficiency, particularly in the Global South.
- Strengthening data systems, digitalization, and analytical capabilities to enhance the targeting and scaling up of energy access initiatives.
- Ensuring alignment of the UN-Energy Plan of Action with the 2026 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) review of SDG 7 and post-2030 energy discussions to maintain continuity and strategic relevance.

5. AOB

No additional business was raised.

6. Next Steps & Closing

The Secretariat acknowledged the valuable inputs shared during the meeting and outlined a dual-track focus for UN-Energy’s next phase of work:

Demonstrating Progress:

Participants agreed on the importance of documenting and showcasing what UN-Energy and its member organizations have delivered under the *Plan of Action Towards 2025*. To support this, the Secretariat will coordinate the preparation of a progress document that highlights key milestones, results, and collective actions taken to date.

Charting the Path Forward:

To collectively shape the next phase of UN-Energy’s contribution toward SDG 7 and the 2030 Agenda, it was agreed to convene a two-day **UN-Energy Retreat**, tentatively scheduled for **15–17 July 2025 in New York**, alongside the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Proposed Objectives of the Retreat:

- Take stock of achievements under the 2025 Action Plan.
- Showcase joint actions and progress made by UN-Energy organizations.
- Define a forward-looking UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2030, with clear Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Strategically align with the upcoming SDG 7 review at the 2026 HLPF and inform the energy dimension of post-2030 agenda discussions.

To support preparations for the retreat, the Secretariat proposes convening the next UN-Energy virtual meeting on **24 April 2025**.

Annex 1:



UN-Energy Meeting (technical level)

19 March 2024, 08:30 – 10:00 EST (NY Time)

Virtual Meeting

DRAFT AGENDA

With less than 6 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, we must step up to urgently accelerate action to realise SDG7 - ensuring universal access to affordable and clean energy and advancing a just and inclusive energy transition toward net-zero emissions. The UN General Assembly's decision last year to extend the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All to 2030 provides an important platform to mobilize a final push towards SDG7. The outcomes of the Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, along with countries' continued commitment through their new NDCs, reinforce critical global momentum. The third review of SDG7 at the HLPF 2026 will be an important opportunity to assess progress and set the tone on the way forward, aligning with the start of the discussions on the post-2030 agenda at the SDG Summit in 2027.

Recognizing the contributions of the UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025, it is now time to reflect on the progress made and to chart the collective way forward. This meeting will provide an opportunity for an initial assessment of how UN-Energy can best contribute to the efforts for a final push to achieve SDG7, reflecting also on past experiences and the current situation, including the impacts of the financial situation of the UN. This will help to inform a discussion on the establishment of a UN-Energy Plan of Action towards 2030.

1. Welcome

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Taking Stock of Progress, Lessons-learned, Challenges, and Opportunities

This will be an opportunity to "go around the table". All UN-Energy members and partners are invited to share their reflections - the experiences to-date, current challenges we are faced with, and opportunities for the future.

4. Establishing a UN-Energy Action Plan Towards 2030

How can UN-Energy best advance progress on SDG7 in support of achieving the 2030 Agenda? In this context, what should be the priorities for a UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2030?

Action Item: Decision to establish a UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2030, building on the lessons learned and reflecting agreed priorities, to be developed by the time of the UNGA high-level week. Milestones, including a possible UN-Energy retreat in preparation for this.

5. AOB

6. Next Steps & Closing

Annex 2:**List of Participants**

Organization	Name
ECA	Monga Mehlwana
ECE	Igor Litvinyuk
EOSG	Clemence Lize
ESCWA	Radia Sedaoui
FAO	Michela Morese
IRENA	Mirjam Reiner Anastasia Kefalidou
OHCHR	Rebaone Ferguson
SEforAll	Divya Kottadiel
UNDP	Riad Meddeb Stefano Pistolese Adam Kadduri
UNFCCC	Vintura Silva Carlos Ruiz Sanchez
WB	Sandeep Kohli Patrick Rugwizangoga
WHO	Heather Adair-Rohani
WMO	Roberta Boscolo
UNICEF	Amy Wickham Sean Storr
UNIDO	Christopher James Hope
UNITAR	Mark Gibson
UN-OHRLS	Rita Ruohonen
UNDESA (Secretariat)	Minoru Takada, Bahareh Seyedi, Martin Niemetz, Nadine Salame, Dominika Zahrer, Pragati Pascale, Aashna Swarup, Veronika Ruskova, Carolyn Hayek, Nina Engelbrecht