



Written input by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands to the regional and thematic consultations in preparation of the Global Stocktake of SDG7

The Netherlands places high value on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The commitments that all United Nations Member States adopted in 2015 have shaped and continue to shape our global agenda for sustainable development. Sustainable Development Goal 7 on *ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all* is a clear priority for us. In the past few years, the world has seen a combination of rapid technological progress and major shockwaves in the global energy sector. This underlines the necessity to come together in a meaningful way to discuss the need to bring the world together, to inspire and guide our actions around key priorities. Priorities, such as reaching universal access, increasing renewables, doubling the rate of energy efficiency improvements, and aligning financial flows accordingly.

In our view, the SDG 7 agenda is about the lives and livelihoods of people and communities, about sustainability, reliability, affordability, and inclusion. And this agenda is as relevant, perhaps even more, today as it was in 2015. Nonetheless, the joint tracking of progress on SDG 7 shows that we need to accelerate. As policymakers, we need to set ourselves ambitious targets.

In that regard, the Netherlands would like to underline that access to sustainable energy, with special focus for clean cooking is a political priority: our country has set itself an ambitious target and doubled its objective to reach not 50, but 100 million people with access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy in the period 2015-2030, especially for those most vulnerable. By now, the Netherlands has reached more than 23 million people. We very much hope that the Global Stocktake will succeed in heightening political momentum and ambition.

To provide input on the last question that the Global Stocktake will discuss, i.e., what can be appropriate institutional arrangements to continue to advance international cooperation on



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SDG 7, we would like to state the following: in our opinion, a platform that would support intergovernmental dialogue on energy, to provide technical support as needed, is a critical next step. Especially in this world that has experienced and continues to experience multiple crises. We would very much welcome an open discussion on this in the near future.