UNFCCC COP 25

Concept Note
Roundtable: SDG7

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Tuesday, 10 December
16:30 – 18:00

Organised by IRENA, SEforAll, and UNFCCC
Supported by IEA and REN21

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MPGCA Roundtable: SDG7

Description:
Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) calls for ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 through the achievement of three targets, namely ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services; increasing substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix; and doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. Touching nearly all aspects of society, access to energy is a prerequisite for the achievement of other SDGs. Achieving SDG7 in the context of the Paris Agreement on climate change means a rethink on how we produce, distribute and consume energy. According to *Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report*[1], the world is making progress towards achieving SDG7, but is falling short of meeting the goal to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030. A sense of urgency is lacking.

- Those without access to electricity decreased to about 840 million in 2017 from 1.2 billion in 2010, with significant progress taking place between 2015 and 2017. However, keeping up the current momentum will be increasingly challenging as progress is uneven and there is a growing gap between fast-electrifying countries and those lagging behind. Connecting the last of the unserved populations may be the most challenging, so the pace must be increased in practice.
- 17.5% of total final energy consumption in renewables reached in 2016, compared to 16.6% in 2010. The use of renewables to generate electricity has increased rapidly, but the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that the share of renewable energy in power must increase to 80% by 2050 to limit global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.[2] The share of renewable energy would need to accelerate substantially to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Primary energy intensity reached 5.1 MJ/USD in 2016, compared to 5.9 MJ/USD in 2010. However, the global rate of improvement in primary energy intensity still lags behind what would be needed to achieve the target of doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency (and estimates suggest that improvements actually slowed in 2017 and 2018).

This event will take stock of progress and identify solutions specifically focusing on electricity access that can help accelerate action towards achieving SDG7 for a prosperous, climate-safe future for all.

Objective of the event towards the following issues:

Pre-2020 action:

[1] IEA, IRENA, UNSD, WB, WHO (2019), Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2019, Washington DC.
[2] IPCC, *Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C*, World Meteorological Organization, Geneva, 2018, https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/.

- *What are the current challenges, opportunities and metrics (such as data and analysis) for pre-2020 actions to realize the transition using technology, innovation and finance for this thematic area?*
- *What are the pre-2020 actions that have been implemented that accelerates systemic transformation, including changing behavioural patterns and leapfrogging conventional development paths? What needs to be improved or enhanced?]*

This event will showcase scalable and replicable technology, including the latest developments in mini-grids, off-grids and decentralized solutions, and the new and innovative finance and business models to deploy these. If embedded in national policy and regulatory frameworks, these solutions can expand affordable, reliable and sustainable energy access to households, support livelihoods, enhance delivery of essential services (e.g., health), increase job opportunities and strengthen gender equality. The roundtable will highlight the best practice policy making, technology developments, business model innovations and inclusive approaches that can be replicated and scaled to provide a pathway to meeting the mutual commitments of SDG7 and the Paris Agreement.

Climate Action Pathway/Yearbook of Global Climate Action/Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA)

- *How does the future need to look like in 2050 in order to reach the 1.5-degree, net-zero, resilient goal and how we are moving towards this future?*
- *What are the systemic transformational actions and solutions to transition to this future, providing evidence that is science-based?]*

This event will discuss the scale of progress made to date and how to accelerate action to achieve SDG7 by 2030 and put the world on a 1.5°C pathway for 2050. Achieving universal energy access – ensuring no one is left behind – must be an essential element of efforts to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 but is often neglected in discussions around the global energy transition. However, as significant systemic transitions occur over the next decade, the innovative, sustainable solutions being developed and deployed to close energy access gaps will contribute to mitigation and adaptation efforts globally as well. Universal access can only be achieved sustainably with increased deployment of renewable energies and ramped-up energy efficiency solutions.

2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit

- *How can the transformational outcomes of the UN SG Summit be taken forward and scaled up to accelerate the transition?]*

The Climate Action Summit focused on actions and concrete plans to support progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement targets. The Energy Transition track introduced new initiatives led by coalitions of stakeholders to drive decarbonisation of energy systems while ensuring no one is left behind. The initiatives presented during the Summit addressed the critical need to ensure universal access by increasing renewable energy and ramping-up energy efficiency, particularly for those in LDCs and SIDS. These initiatives include: the Climate Investment Platform; the Three Percent Club for Energy Efficiency; LDC Sustainable Energy Access Coalition; Accelerating Sustainable Energy in SIDS to Achieve Enhanced and Ambitious Energy Transition Targets by 2030 and the Energy Storage Initiative.

These initiatives, among others, promote replicable and scalable solutions to ensure energy access for all.

Types of speakers:

[Please list types of speakers or sectors they represent that you aim to bring to the event, for example 'C-level speakers from industry x' or 'Mayor'. This information will be published in the aforementioned online system. The incoming COP 25 Presidency will be recommending a few speakers/participants for the thematic action events and roundtables based on their outreach and mobilization efforts for the COP. Please include a role for the High-Level Champion(s) in an opening or closing. Please ensure balance in gender, governance level and spectrum of stakeholders across all levels of government and sectors. Please also identify moderators.]