



Tracking SDG7: Progress towards achieving universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

High-level Political Forum side event: Tuesday 7th July at 8:00-9:00 am EST

This year's [Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report](#), shows that significant progress had been made towards achieving the SDG 7 before the COVID-19 crisis. The number of people worldwide lacking access to electricity fell – from 1.2 billion in 2010 to 789 million in 2018 – and there has been a strong uptake of renewable energy for electricity generation, improvements in energy efficiency and expanded access to clean cooking solutions.

Yet, global efforts remain insufficient to reach the key targets of SDG 7 by 2030. Under policies that were either in place or planned before the start of the pandemic, an estimated 620 million people would still lack access in 2030, 85 percent of them in Sub-Saharan Africa. Almost 3 billion people remained without access to clean cooking in 2018. The share of renewable energy in the global energy mix is only inching up gradually, despite the rapid growth of wind and solar power in electricity generation. Following strong progress on global energy efficiency between 2015 and 2016, the pace has slackened in recent years.

The effects of the COVID-19 crisis threaten to derail global efforts so far at a time when urgent action is needed to scale-up sustainable energy solutions for immediate response and a sustainable recovery. Accelerating the pace of progress in all regions and sectors will require stronger political commitment, holistic policy frameworks, increased public and private financing as well as international cooperation.

The collaborative work of the five Custodians agencies of tracking SDG 7 highlights the need for reliable data as well as the opportunity to enhance data quality through international cooperation. The Tracking SDG 7 report is intended to inform the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's annual review at the High-level Political Forum and to guide national and international COVID-19 response measures.

About the side-event

Following the [high-level launch](#) of the Tracking SDG 7 report on 4th June, this side-event aims for a more in-depth discussion on the data and findings of the report to be presented by the five Custodians agencies – IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank and WHO. It will further be focusing on national and international measures needed to safeguard the gains already attained to achieve SDG 7 while accelerating efforts in the post-COVID-19 world. Country representatives will be invited to comment on the report and present their plans/response measures and needs to achieve SDG 7 during the coming decade of action. The event will be moderated by Minoru Takada, Team Leader (Sustainable Energy) at UN DESA.

Questions that will be addressed include:

- Where do we see substantial progress and alarming shortfall for access to energy and clean cooking, renewable energy and energy efficiency deployment?
- What measures are needed to safeguard the advances attained and accelerate progress in the decade of action amid the COVID-19 pandemic?
- How can the data presented in the report be used for national policy makers in guiding their work?

Agenda

8:00-8:03	Welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ahmed Abdel-Latif, Permanent Observer of IRENA to the United Nations
8:03-8:06	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H.E. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations
8:06-8:35	Presentation of Tracking SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rohit Khanna, Programme Manager, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), World Bank- Heather Adair-Rohani, Energy and Health Lead, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, WHO- Emma Åberg, Associate Programme Officer, Knowledge, Policy and Finance Center, IRENA- Roberta Quadrelli, Head of Section, Energy Data Centre, IEA- Leonardo Souza, Chief, Energy Statistics Section, UN Statistics Division
8:35-8:55	Lead-discussants/commentators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Hans Olav Ibrekk, Policy Director, Section for Energy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Norway- Paul Mbuti, Deputy Director Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Kenya- Muhammad Imran Khan, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations- Sofia Martinez, Policy Officer – Sustainable Energy and Climate Change, DG DEVCO, European Commission- Ismail Zahir, Liaison with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations
8:55-9:00	Closing remarks

Moderator: Minoru Takada, Team Leader (Sustainable Energy), UN DESA.

Event organiser: SDG 7 Custodian Agencies (IEA, IRENA, UNSD, World Bank, WHO)

Registration: Through [GotoWebinar](#)

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