

# REVIEW FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

A PERIODIC BRIEF ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

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## IMPLEMENTING SDG7 – THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL ON ENERGY

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development pledges to end poverty and improve health and education while preserving the planet for current and future generations. Adopted under the United Nations umbrella in 2015, its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs include a dedicated goal on energy. SDG7 calls for universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, a substantially increased share of renewables in the global energy mix, and the doubling of the global rate of improvements in energy efficiency. Renewable energy also contributes directly or indirectly to achieving other SDGs.

The UN High-Level Political Forum in July 2018 reviewed progress towards SDG7, providing a compelling platform for countries to share experiences and discuss measures to ratchet up the positive momentum of the ongoing energy transformation. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), as one of the Custodian Agencies for SDG7 indicators, is supporting the review process by providing up-to-date renewable energy capacity and power generation data. IRENA’s analytical work has also looked at actions to accelerate deployment and enhance linkages to other SDGs.



# RENEWABLE ENERGY BENEFITS

## IMPLEMENTING SDG7 AND FUELLING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- » **As of 2015, the world obtained 17.5% of its total final energy consumption (TFEC) from renewable sources. Modern renewables share of TFEC stood at 9.6%**
- » **The share of renewable energy in electricity reached an all-time high of 22.8% in 2015**
- » **Efforts of a much greater magnitude are required in the power sector, and in end uses, such as heating/cooling and transport, which account for more than 80% of TFEC**
- » **Renewable energy consumption in transport has increased faster than in electricity or heat, but from a very low base**

**Tracking progress and bridging the gap –** Renewables have accounted for well over half of net global power capacity additions over the past five years. Biomass for power, hydropower, geothermal, solar PV, and onshore wind technologies can increasingly compete on price with fossil-based generation.

But electricity accounted for only 20% of total final energy consumption in 2015. Progress also has to accelerate for heating/cooling and transport to meet the SDG7 target for renewables in the global energy mix.

The share of renewables in heat consumption reached 24.8% in 2015, but this was still dominated by traditional use of biomass. The use of renewables in district heating and modern non-commercial uses grew by 24% and 8%, respectively, between 2010 and 2015. Dedicated policies are needed for district and residential heating/cooling systems, and for industrial/commercial heat applications. Solar thermal technologies, for instance, can be facilitated through rebate programmes, mandates, building codes, and financial incentives.

In the transport sector, renewable energy consumption reached 2.8% globally in 2015, with rising consumption faster than in electricity or heat, but from a very low

base. To incentivise greater use of renewable options, including biofuels and electric vehicles, phasing out fossil fuel subsidies is essential. Biofuels can be encouraged through mandates, tax incentives, and research, development and demonstration programmes. Tax incentives and purchase grants can support the adoption of electric vehicles.

Energy efficiency needs to be promoted in tandem. Together, renewables and efficiency are both crucial to keep global warming within Paris Agreement limits. Increased electrification of end-use sectors will also permit greater energy system flexibility.

### **Renewable energy deployment reinforces SDGs –**

Renewable energy helps address two key issues: lack of access to modern energy and the negative impacts associated with the use of traditional sources of energy. These two factors are responsible for a myriad of problems facing millions of people worldwide. Four million premature deaths annually are linked to indoor air pollution caused by traditional biomass cooking and heating, disproportionately affecting women and children.

Off-grid renewable energy solutions (stand-alone systems and mini-grids) offer a compelling solution to expand access. They are cost-effective, environmentally-sustainable, adaptable and scalable. IRENA estimates that over 133 million people benefited from off-grid renewables in 2016 – a six-fold increase since 2011. Besides lighting and cooking, off-grid solutions support the delivery of public services (e.g., education, water and primary health care), the development of livelihoods (e.g., agriculture) and other commercial and industrial needs.

A study by the Asian Development Bank on small-scale projects in rural communities showcases the impact renewable energy can have for people living in rural areas. One 50 kilowatt-peak solar PV and small-wind hybrid plant in Khushab, Punjab, brought electricity to schools, mosques and homes, lights, fans, TVs and phones, powered and connected the over 500 residents with the rest of the world. Similar projects have improved the quality of life of millions of people in rural communities across the developing world. In remote Wainaka, Fiji, solar energy is being used by fishermen to refrigerate their catch, increasing their income of fishermen, and letting them diversify and sell other refrigerated products.

Cross-sector applications can also support the achievement of other SDGs, including those related to agriculture, water and health. Off-grid renewables, can deliver reliable, affordable and sustainable energy to remote health care centres to power medical devices (e.g., refrigeration; surgical, laboratory and diagnostic equipment) and support the provision of basic amenities (e.g., communications, water), advancing SDG3 (on health and well-being). The distributed nature of off-grid solutions builds skills and creates jobs locally, contributing to rising incomes and overall well-being.

**Accelerating the pace of the energy transition remains crucial** – A world powered by renewable energy is not only possible, it is inevitable. The key question is how fast. While transformation of the electricity sector is underway, the bulk of deployment is still concentrated in relatively few countries.

Further growth requires tailored efforts to address deployment barriers in different contexts. In emerging markets, access to affordable finance and predictable policy frameworks will play an important role. Public finance can catalyse private investments, but also extends to direct financing, especially in poor rural communities. In mature markets, where the share of variable renewables is reaching significant levels, a focus on system integration, becomes central.

Greater attention is needed on renewables in end-use sectors, including heating/cooling and transport. National, regional, and global action plans need to consider the socio-economic dimension.

Accelerating growth to reach 2030 targets is possible with stronger commitment from governments, an increase in investments, and an expansion of innovative new technologies. With holistic approaches, targeted policies and international support, renewable energy development can improve the lives of millions of people.

**The need for an ambitious set of policy measures** - While the energy transition is technically feasible and economically beneficial, it will not happen by itself. Government policy is a key factor. Ambitious policy measures are needed: the rapid phase out of fossil fuel subsidies; carbon taxes to provide an unambiguous signal to markets; extensive energy market reforms to integrate variable renewables; industrial policies to strengthen domestic value creation; and stringent low-carbon and energy efficiency mandates.

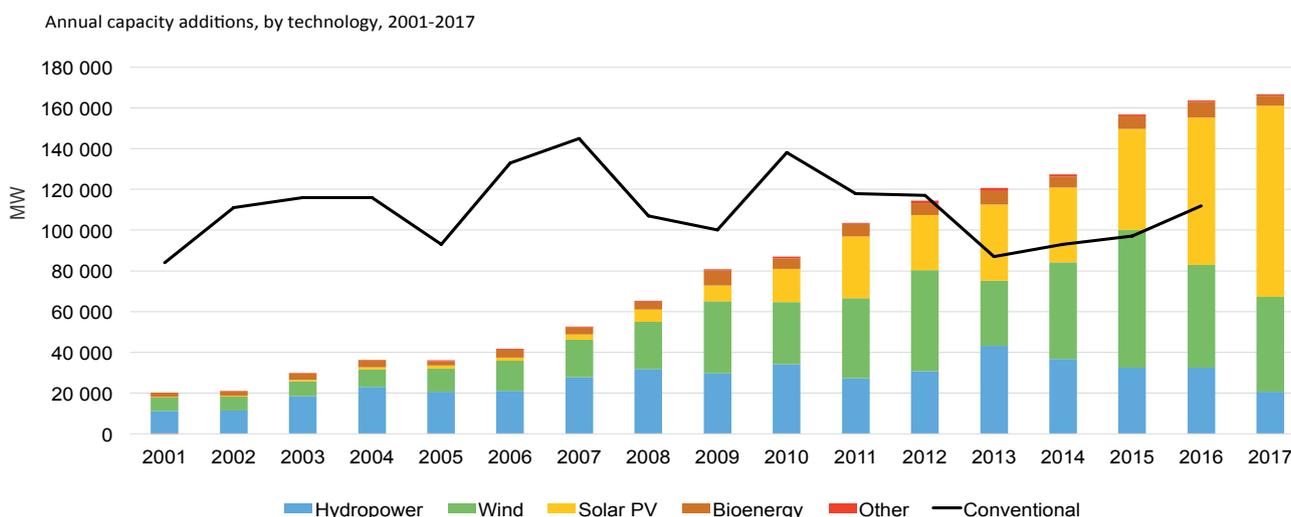
Finance is a cornerstone of the energy transition. Investment must increase significantly beyond the level expected under current and planned policies. Last, but not least, policies are needed to ensure that transition costs and benefits are fairly distributed and transition processes are made as smooth as possible. Retraining and up-skilling, unemployment insurance, other social protection measures, public employment programmes, and investments aimed at economic diversification and revitalisation will all help smooth the transition.

**Further reading:**

*Off-grid Renewable Energy Solutions: Global and Regional Status and Trends (IRENA, 2018)*

*Global energy transformation: A view to 2050 (IRENA, 2016)*

**Growth of renewable power capacity additions**



# POLICY COMPASS

## TARGETED POLICIES TO REACH THE ENERGY GOAL

The world still falls short of what has to happen to achieve SDG7, the Sustainable Development Goal on energy. Targeted efforts are needed – across different countries and sectors – to accelerate progress. This requires greater policy commitment and increased investments, as well as embracing new technologies on a much wider scale.

### 1. PURSUE TAILORED EFFORTS TO SUPPORT FURTHER GROWTH IN THE POWER SECTOR

- » **In emerging renewable energy markets**, ensure access to affordable finance and predictable policy frameworks to support the development of the sector. In this context, innovative public financing instruments and de-risking tools have a crucial role to play in catalysing investments in technology innovation and deployment.
- » **In mature markets**, where the share of variable renewables has reached significant levels, focus on system integration and adaptation of market design and regulations for continued growth and transformation.
- » **Plan in advance** for the integration of **high shares of variable renewable energy** in the power sector, which requires system-wide innovation, with new approaches to operation, market design and business models.

### 2. INCREASE RENEWABLE ENERGY PENETRATION IN END-USES

- » **Adopt dedicated policies** to promote renewables in end-use sectors, including heating/cooling and transport.
- » **In the heating/cooling sectors**, increase adoption of biomass, geothermal or solar thermal-based district energy systems, as well as renewables for industrial and commercial heat applications.
- » **In transport**, phase out fossil fuel subsidies, along with fiscal incentives; support research, development and demonstration programmes; and adopt mandates to incentivise greater use of biofuels and electric vehicles. The transition also depends on rebalancing of transportation modes and expansion of urban public transit systems.

### 3. TAP INTO SYNERGIES BETWEEN ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, ALONG WITH ELECTRIFICATION OF END-USES

- » **Promote renewable energy and energy efficiency in tandem** to accelerate the pace of the energy transition and decarbonise in line with the boundaries set within the Paris Agreement.
- » **Increase electrification of end-use sectors** to permit greater overall energy system flexibility.

### 4. ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MODERN ENERGY ACCESS THROUGH OFF-GRID SOLUTIONS

- » **Recognise the role of both on-grid and off-grid solutions** (e.g., stand-alone systems and mini-grids) to scale-up access to modern energy services and integrate in energy access plans and strategies.
- » **Devise dedicated policies and regulations** to support the deployment of off-grid renewables and adopt an ‘energy services’ perspective that addresses all energy needs and engages local communities (including women) in meeting them.
- » **Design policies and programmes with a view to develop local capacities** across the off-grid renewables value chain to enhance sustainability, maximise opportunities for local job creation and support income-generation activities.

### 5. CONSIDER THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DIMENSION OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION

- » **Adopt a holistic approach** to maximise the socio-economic benefits of reaching SDG7, including on economic growth, jobs and industrial development.
- » **Introduce a set of broader policies** – including industrial, education and training, and social protection measures – to address the socio-economic dimension of the energy transition and ensure that it is just, timely and equitable.

#### Further reading:

*Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2018* (World Bank Group et. al.)

# POINT OF VIEW

## **Bärbel Höhn, Former Member of Parliament and Special Representative for Energy in Africa, Germany**

In 2000, Germany decided to phase out of nuclear power in just over 20 years. The law adopted to support wind, solar and biomass is a great success story. Back then nuclear energy accounted for 35% of net electricity production, and renewables only 5%. Just 17 years later the ratio was reversed – renewables represented 38.5%, and nuclear 13.2%. At the same time, the share of coal power fell from over 50% to less than 40%. In the first half of 2018, the share of renewables exceeded that of coal for the first time. On 1 January 2018, for the first time, Germany's total electricity demand was supplied by renewable energy for several hours.

The development of wind and solar technology was simultaneously supported in Germany, largely driven by the drastic cost reduction of solar PV worldwide. Solar energy has become competitive, and it is a driver for job creation and prosperity in the south of the country. Some 350 000 jobs were created in the field of renewable energy. By comparison brown coal, which represents 24% in the total electricity mix, employs only 20 000 people. Renewable energy is therefore not only good for the environment and climate protection but also for jobs and value creation.

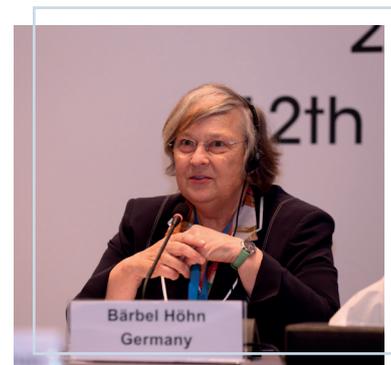
The recipe for success was strong participation and support: 1.7 million people in Germany are now prosumers, producing and consuming their electricity. Energy production was democratised. Rural regions have especially benefited, as farmers have become energy producers. The next step is to increasingly enable tenant electricity so that more people in cities can benefit from solar power. Germany's success is based on the co-operation of parliamentarians from all parties, who worked together for many years on the development and promotion of renewables.

## **Amadou Cisse, Member of Parliament, Mali, and President of the Committee on SDGs**

Following the adoption of the SDGs in 2015, the National Assembly of Mali voted to enable the tracking of national implementation of the SDGs. It established a monitoring committee, which I was elected to head. This legislative framework contains an action plan that enabled us to encourage the government to submit the country's record of SDG implementation to voluntary examinations at the UN High-Level Political Forum. Mali presented its report to the HLPF last July.

Mali has also set up a network of parliamentarians for of SDG7, specifically – primarily devoted to monitoring the government's action in off-grid solar installations for rural populations.

As a member of parliament, I initiated a rural electrification programme in my constituency. Originally it was based mainly on fossil fuel, but increasingly we are switching to solar energy, which is now a viable and cost-effective option. Solar lamps have also been installed in some villages, along the main roads for safety purposes, in schools, and in healthcare centres. It didn't take long for the socio-economic benefits to become a reality – economic activities were boosted and people's way of life changed for the better.



Bärbel Höhn, Former MP holds over 15 years of experience as a parliamentarian. During her tenure as a member of the German Bundestag, she was Vice-chair of the Green Parliamentarian Group. She has also served as State Minister in the areas of Environment, Agriculture, Planning, Conservation and Consumer Protection.

She has recently been appointed as Special Representative for Energy in Africa at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany.



Amadou Cisse has been an elected member of the National Assembly of Mali since 2014 and is the President of the Committee on the SDGs, the country's monitoring committee for the national implementation of SDGs.

He has also served as Vice-Chair of the Sustainable Development, Finance and Trade Committee of the IPU.

## IN FOCUS

### SAVING LIVES WITH THE SUN

- » **An estimated one billion or more people rely on healthcare facilities without access to adequate electricity supply**
- » **Dramatic cost reductions and technological improvement of renewable energy technologies in the past decade makes renewables an economically and technically viable solution that can be rapidly deployed**
- » **Growth in the use of solar PV for health care has increased five-fold since 2010, reaching over 10 megawatts by 2018**

Throughout most of human history, people have believed that the sun possesses healing powers. In fact, heliotherapy was pervasive in most ancient cultures, from Vedic 'sun salutation' yoga poses in India to Greek solaria sunbathing skin treatments. Today, the power of the sun is saving lives around the world – not through its medical properties or mystical potential – but through its ability to power essential lifesaving equipment in remote and mobile clinics, and sustain hospitals in the event of natural disasters or other power outages.

#### Solar-powered medical facilities play a small but vital role in saving lives and improving health outcomes around the world

According to the latest estimates, just under one billion people still lack access to electricity. Many also live in parts of the world where electricity scarcity creates a serious barrier to the provision of health services. A 2013 World Health Organization study of eight Sub-Saharan African countries found that only 28% of healthcare facilities had reliable electricity. As a result, many essential services and functions – from refrigeration for blood and vaccines to power for equipment sterilisation and basic medical devices – are unavailable.



#### The most affordable source of power generation in many parts of the world –

The cost of extending grids to rural areas is for many countries prohibitive. Diesel standalone generation has played an important role, especially in rural areas, though high costs of fossil fuels can be a significant barrier for many clinics, not to mention the health risks associated with air pollution. A 2013 study in Bangladesh found that the amount spent on diesel in one year to power a generator could fund a skilled nurse for six months and that, furthermore, during the rainy season fuel supplies can become interrupted, with life-threatening consequences.

At the same time, the costs for renewable energy have fallen dramatically in recent years, making it the cheapest option for power generation in many parts of the world today. Meanwhile, advances in medical technology – from LED lighting to battery-powered foetal heart monitors – are making medical equipment, lighting and other health technology much more energy efficient. Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems are especially well-suited, as they are highly transportable, scalable and low-maintenance compared to other systems. According to IRENA capacity statistics, around 21 000 healthcare facilities relied on solar PV worldwide in 2017. Most of this was for small-scale clinics, whereas around 50 large-scale and 1 600 medium-scale facilities used solar PV.

**An innovative solution to the healthcare gap** – One of the most prominent micro-scale innovations to emerge is the ‘solar suitcase’ advanced by the NGO We Care Solar. Since 2009, the organisation has sent 2 800 of their units, which comprise a suitcase containing a 40-80-watt solar panel and a variety of medical devices, to clinics around the world. These low-cost solutions are targeted at the front-line health clinics currently lacking any electricity and are largely focused on improving maternal and child health. Through its provision of the simple, inexpensive suitcases, and training local counterparts this initiative alone has improved health outcomes for more than 1.5 million mothers and children.

Another unique innovation is the Community Health Africa Trust-Designmatters project to improve health services for remote Kenyan communities, where a camel-transported solar-powered medical clinic is able to bring refrigerated vaccines and medicine to rural areas. The system, which is currently being tested in the Laikipia region of Kenya, includes everything needed to perform basic medical work, including a bed, two clinical tables, chairs, the medical items and a 70-watt solar system with a foot-powered generator as a backup.

In Assam, India, boats equipped with solar panels are being used to reach 300 000 people in 373 river-island villages across 13 districts. Previously run on diesel generators, the clinics could not operate in the evenings and were constrained by their power needs. The boats have now been fitted with five kilowatt solar systems, which enables medical staff to install refrigerators to store vaccines, improve laboratory testing, and work at night.

Large-scale hospitals with either partial or full provision of electricity from solar panels are also becoming more prevalent since the first project, in Mirebalais, Haiti, was developed following the earthquake in 2010. In Syria – whose electrical grid has been largely destroyed after years of civil war – a new solar-diesel hybrid hospital reduces fuel costs by 60-70% and ensures continuation of services in emergency contexts. In Puerto Rico, where 450 000 people remain without power following the devastating hurricane in 2017, a Tesla solar array is providing a vital source of electricity to a children’s hospital in San Juan that is performing so well that the hospital’s administrator has called for the array to continue powering the hospital even after grid service is restored.

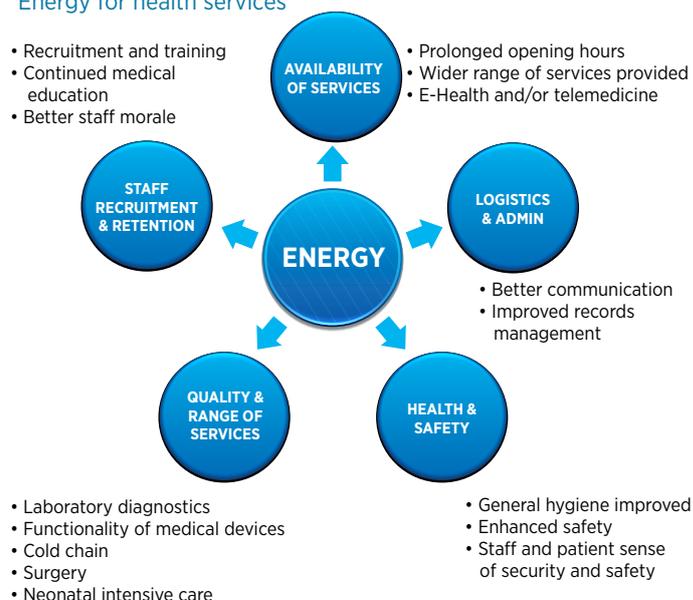
Off-grid renewable energy solutions present a key opportunity to transform the quality of healthcare services provided to rural communities. To facilitate action, IRENA organised the first International

Conference on Renewable Energy Solutions for Healthcare Facilities in November 2018, bringing together stakeholders from the energy and health sectors, including policy-makers, practitioners, financial institutions, development partners, and non-governmental organisations.

**Target areas for facilitating off-grid renewable energy solutions** – Several successful examples of renewable-based systems powering rural health clinics have already had a broad transformative impact on the quality of life of rural communities. However, a more widespread deployment of off-grid solutions for health centres is often hampered by institutional barriers and gaps of policy and financial nature.

Electrification of health facilities will accelerate through off-grid solutions if the right conditions for deployment are created. While there is no “one-size-fits-all” solution, IRENA’s continuing engagement with stakeholders has identified several fundamental target areas, illustrated below:

**Energy for health services**



Based on WHO presentation at IOREC 2016

**Further reading:**

*The International Conference on Renewable Energy Solutions for Healthcare Facilities*

# CASE STUDIES



## FINLAND

A key challenge for bioenergy production from forest biomass is sourcing but a new bioproduct mill in central Finland has overcome this challenge, making use of a range of residues from surrounding woodlands. The Äänekoski bioproduct mill uses such wood residues to power its own operations and supply electricity to the Nordic power market and district heat for the nearby town; to make standard products like pulp and turpentine; and to turn out high-value products like textiles, composites, fertilisers, and liquid biofuels.

Finland's vast forest resources feed renewable-based industrial output, energy supply, economic growth and social well-being, and other countries with abundant forests have also started realising their renewable energy potential from forest biomass. The annual growth of the forests in the northern European country has nearly doubled since the 1950s, and so has the amount of wood that can be sustainably extracted from those forests. Of the wood extracted, roughly half is used for products like lumber for buildings and pulp for paper, while the other half is used for energy in highly efficient district heating systems and combined heat and power plants.



## INDONESIA

Sumba Island in Indonesia, home to 700 000 people, is at the centre of the Iconic Island initiative to showcase the potential for local development facilitated by a supply of 100% renewable energy. A renewable energy blueprint and roadmap was jointly drafted and developed by all stakeholders, including the district, provincial and national governments, the state electricity company PLN, local NGOs and the corporate social responsibility units of several companies.

The community can have a strong role in supporting off-grid energy infrastructure, and can also be involved in the ownership, design, financing, development, operation and maintenance of energy infrastructure. The Sumba Island initiative has been designed to engage local communities and entrepreneurs, with a micro-hydro facility being owned, operated and maintained by the Kamanggih Community Cooperative. This facility supplies electricity to over 100 households and exports excess power to the national grid. The co-operative has grown its assets from nearly USD 300 000 to over USD 624 000, allowing it to support its members with a wider range of financial services.



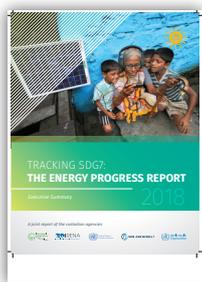
## THAILAND

With 60% of its energy coming from imports and proven reserves of oil and gas anticipated to last no more than a decade, Thailand faces significant challenges to security of supply and overall energy expenditure. Keenly aware of the country's growing energy demand and depleting domestic reserves of energy resources, Thailand has set energy security as a top policy objective, followed by economic affordability and environmental sustainability.

To this end, the Thailand Integrated Energy Blueprint 2015-2036 was created through harmonising five major energy plans in the areas of Power Development, Energy Efficiency, Alternative Energy, Oil and Gas into one integrated energy document. The alternative energy dimension, for example, lays out the use of biofuels for heat and transport and also recognises the important and growing role that solar photovoltaic and wind can play in the country.

Thailand is also exploring the use of electric vehicles as the demand for electricity in the transport sector could triple by 2036. The adoption of a long-term strategic development plan for the transport sector would therefore help provide an alternative to petroleum-derived transport fuels in the country. The long-term perspective and system approach taken in the Blueprint could potentially change the way that energy policy is implemented in Thailand and yield the desired results, especially if backed by an effective mechanism for inter-ministerial co ordination and an implementation monitoring system in place.

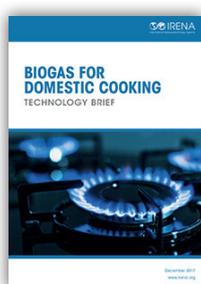
# SELECTED PUBLICATIONS



## TRACKING SDG7: THE ENERGY PROGRESS REPORT

Prepared by the Custodian Agencies for Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) this joint tracking report 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. It assesses the progress made by each country on these targets and provides a snapshot of how far we are from achieving SDG7.

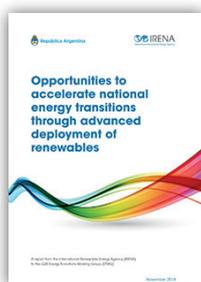
*World Bank Group with IEA, IRENA UN Statistics Division and WHO, May 2018*



## BIOGAS FOR DOMESTIC COOKING: TECHNOLOGY BRIEF

Cook stoves fuelled with biogas significantly alleviate health and environmental problems, and can also improve the livelihoods of rural households. This technology brief provides technical background information, analyses market potential and barriers, and offers insights for policy makers on biogas for domestic cooking.

*IRENA, December 2017*



## OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCELERATE NATIONAL ENERGY TRANSITIONS THROUGH ADVANCED DEPLOYMENT OF RENEWABLES

This report was produced by IRENA at the request of Argentina's Group of 20 Presidency, as a key input for the activities of the Energy Transitions Working Group. While the shift to cleaner energy systems is evident across G20, it has specific features in each country, reflecting differing circumstances and priorities. In every case, however, renewable energy plays a significant role. This report elaborates on opportunities for the accelerated deployment of renewables, presenting the lessons of investments and policies to date.

*IRENA, November 2018*



## REVIEW FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS: PREVIOUS ISSUE

### ISSUE 7 — ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSFORMATION

In addition to supporting climate stabilisation goals, a significant uptake of renewables can fuel economic growth, create new employment opportunities, and improvements in human welfare such as health and education gains. Social benefits can be further maximised by ensuring a just, timely and economically efficient transition, and enhancing its overall acceptance in local communities and across societies.

*English Français Español*

# ANNOUNCEMENT

## IRENA ENGAGES WITH PARLIAMENTARIANS TO INCREASE AMBITION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Over the past four years, IRENA has developed its engagement with members of parliament, who have an interest in renewable energy and its inter-linkages with socio-economic development. In addition to the Legislators Forum, IRENA has been pursuing its cooperation with relevant organisations, including the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), with a view to coordinating activities and reaching out to a wider pool of interested parliamentarians.

Recently, IRENA was invited to set up a dedicated booth at the 139th IPU Assembly, giving parliamentarians an opportunity to engage with renewable energy experts to share knowledge, network and discuss options on how to accelerate the global energy transformation. Earlier this year, IRENA contributed to the discussions leading to the unanimous adoption by 178 member Parliaments of an IPU resolution, **‘Engaging the private sector in implementing the SDGs, especially on renewable energy’**.





The Legislators Forum, IRENA's flagship initiative in parliamentary engagement, is a global platform of exchange for members of parliament. IRENA facilitates dialogue among peers, with experts, and with other key stakeholders to align actions to accelerate the energy transformation and play a decisive role in achieving sustainable development and a climate safe future. In just a few years, the Legislators Forum has seen an increasing number of participants and countries represented - a testimony to the growing interest of parliamentarians in raising ambition and actively engaging in the work of IRENA.

**“The time has come for us in parliaments to take the leadership and begin to action these agreements and goals. To do so will require true partnerships between parliaments and other branches of government, and key international organisations, such as IRENA”**

**H.E. Dr Amal Al Qubaisi, Speaker of the UAE Federal National Council**

Parliamentarians are decision makers who hold a unique position to drive this transformation. The Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Martin Chungong, recognising the need for a forum of exchanges on renewable energy, described the Legislators Forum as a platform where “expertise meets policymaking, represented by the participating legislators”.

**“In many constituencies, parliaments have the power to legislate, hold the government to account, and allocate resources for relevant policies. The renewable energy sector is one where parliamentarians and legislators in the world can make a huge difference”**

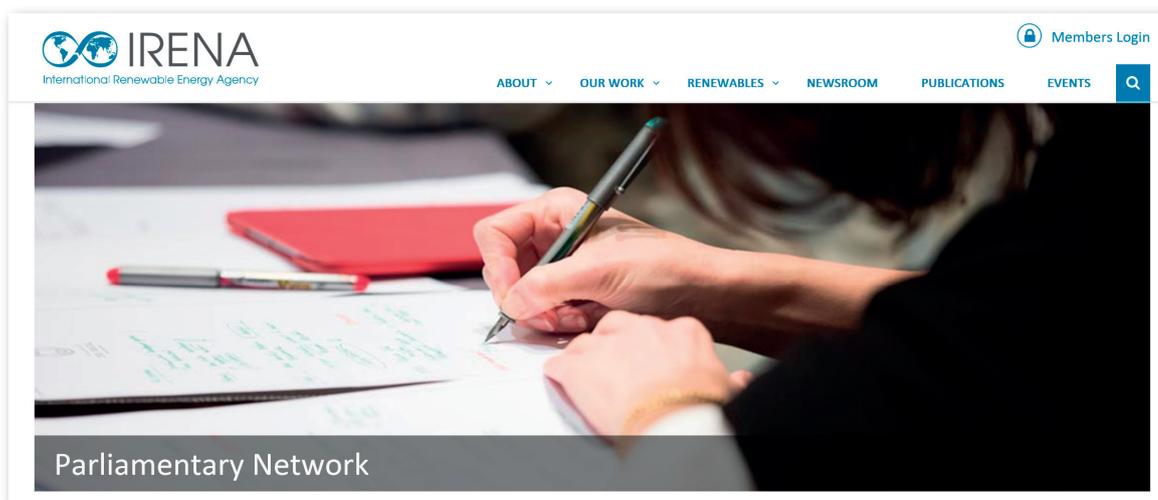
**Martin Chungong, Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union**

The Legislators Forum acts as a catalyst for constituting and strengthening a dedicated network of renewable energy champions, which would subsequently become an authoritative channel of dissemination for key messages and up-to-date information about renewables in parliament, relevant committees, other parliamentary networks, and constituencies.

**“The active participation of members of parliament in the Legislators Forum is welcomed and, in my opinion, crucial. The work of parliaments in shaping strategic and ambitious legislation remains very important”**

**H.E. Mario Giro, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy, in his opening address for his country's Presidency of IRENA's 7th Assembly**

# ENGAGING WITH IRENA THROUGHOUT THE YEAR



RReview for Parliamentarians



Legislators Forum



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