

Moderated panel: **Energy Transition for Sustainable Development**

Organizers: **ESCAP**

Target group: Opening session of the second day – plenary - open to all

On the occasion of the 8th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development ESCAP is organizing a round table discussion on the energy transition needed for sustainable development. A number of senior officials from various countries and international organizations have been invited to share their visions on the challenges and opportunities for bringing about the transition needed in the way energy is generated, transmitted and consumed in order to meet the sustainable development aspirations of countries.

The round table will review the current global energy scene and emerging trends. Factors that are driving major transformations in the energy sector will be discussed, in particular: (a) energy security; (b) increasing energy demand, (c) gaps in energy access (d) environmental impacts on health and well-being, and (e) decarbonizing the energy sector in order to deliver on commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, more specifically SDG 7, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The round table will touch upon how can energy transition be achieved and how to ensure that such transition is economically viable, socially acceptable, environmentally sound, and fits with national priorities.

Emphasis will be placed on national actions and policy recommendations for promoting the necessary energy sector transformation and how these national actions can be reinforced through regional and international cooperation.

The round table is expected to (a) increase awareness about experiences, issues and challenges in promoting energy systems transformation to achieve the SDG 7 from the perspectives of national and international stakeholders and (b) underline the role of regional and international cooperation in actions to achieve the SDG 7.

Guiding questions:

- What are the main challenges in accelerating energy transition on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 7?
- What are the global and regional trends that have impact on energy transition?
- What capacity development measures are needed to ensure national stakeholders have the means to implement their energy transition measures and sustainable development objectives?
- What are the linkages between energy transition and energy security?
- How international institutions can support national governments in increasing their level of ambitions on shifting to low carbon non-polluting energy sources and achieving deeper GHG emissions reductions?
- What global or regional initiatives have worked to increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. How can transboundary energy connectivity and trade promote an increase in renewable energy development?
- How national policies could be developed in addressing universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services and what measures are needed to promote technology deployment and uptake?
- On which sectors should countries focus in order to substantially improve energy efficiency?
- What policies and incentives have worked to incentivise the private sector engagement into the renewable energy deployment at the national level?
- How to ensure improvements in social and economic well-being while transforming energy systems? What are the main challenges in that regard that international and regional institutions can help address?

Moderator:

- Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Panellists:

- Vivien Foster, Global Lead, Energy Economics, Markets & Institutions, World Bank
- Marcel Alers, Head of Energy, United Nations Development Programme
- Mohamed El-Farnawany, Director, Strategic Management and Executive Direction, IRENA
- Ralf Ernst, Deputy Co-ordinator/Head, Environmental Activities, OSCE
- Sebastian Scheimberg, Deputy Minister of Energy and Mining, Argentina
- Dr. Mohammed EL-Khayat, Vice Chairman for Studies, Research, and Technical affair, New and Renewable Energy Authority, Egypt
- Ram Prasad Dhital, Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre, Government of Nepal
- Sergiy Savchuk, Head of the State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving, Ukraine.