

Workshop: Role of Gas in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

Organizers: UNECE, International Gas Union

Target group: Open to all participants

The roundtable, featuring experts from UNECE member States, private sector and the academia, will explore how gas can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular the Goal 7 – to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

For example, natural gas may play a crucial role in access to energy. Some 2.7 billion people, or 40 per cent of the world’s population, still have no access to clean fuels and technologies for cooking. Increasing the share of natural gas in the total primary energy supply, by for example replacing coal with gas, could help increase the rate of improvement in energy efficiency.

The Goal 7 also calls on the UN Member States to increase the uptake of renewable energy. The current share of renewable energy in the world’s total final energy consumption is around 18 per cent in 2012 and does not grow quickly enough. To increase the uptake of renewable energy sources, there is a need for a reliable source of energy and capacity when the renewable energy sources are not available. Gas, as the cleanest of all fossil fuel and a rapid-response option, could be such a source.

Guiding questions:

- Goal 11 calls for a reduction in the adverse environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality. Is natural gas part of a problem or solution here?
- Goal 7 calls the world to increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix and to double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. Can gas and renewable energy work together toward achieving these targets?
- What does “to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services” mean in developing countries? Can natural gas and LNG help with that?
- Goal 2 (zero hunger) - What is the role of gas in “ensuring sustainable food production systems and implementing resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production”?

Roundtable: The Role of Gas in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals	
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Moderator: Mr Torstein Indrebø, Vice-chair, UNECE Group of Experts on Gas</p> <p>Natural gas is relevant to attaining a number of Sustainable Development Goals. Among them are: Goal 1 (no poverty), Goal 2 (zero hunger), Goal 5 (gender), Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation), Goal 7 (affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 11 (inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities), Goal 12 (sustainable consumption and production patterns), and Goal 13 (climate action).</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Mr. Salisu Haruna Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)</p> <p>Mr. Rafael Huarte Director, International Gas Union</p> <p>Mr. Nazir Ramazanov, Chair UNECE Group of Experts on Renewable Energy</p> <p>Dr. Nikita Lomagin, Vice-rector European University at Saint Petersburg</p> <p>Mr. Alan Lau, Managing Director Anglo Euro Developers Ltd</p>
	Open discussion and questions from the floor
15:30 - 16:00	Networking coffee break