

Session: Energy-related SDG implementation and progress tracking

Organizers: United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

Target group: Open to all participants

Background: A transition in energy is a critical feature if the world is to succeed in decarbonizing. The transition to date has featured a dynamic energy market led notably by investments in renewables. Renewable energy is a major policy priority in many countries, and complementarity between hydropower and intermittent renewable energy technologies (solar and wind) has in many cases been a cornerstone for the power sector development. Other renewable energy technologies now are coming to the fore as efforts to decarbonize energy deepen. Growing energy demand and the threat of climate change impose on countries an obligation to re-think their energy system holistically in order to 'ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all'.

However, there remain concerns around ensuring reliable power supply if the shares of variable renewable energy (VRE) become too large. Pursuit of aggressive renewable energy policy must be supported by sound transition policies. The UN Regional Commissions (UN RCs) support technical exchanges among regional experts to strengthen cooperation on issues related to regional energy planning. The objective is to support and accelerate deployment of renewable energy technologies in the region.

In order to track and monitor implementation of SDG7 and other energy-related SDGs, it is urgent to improve data quality and to provide the reports, methodologies, and policies to support development of comprehensive data sets and to monitor indicators.

The *primary* objective of this session is to exchange and discuss regional best practices to enhance capabilities of the countries to track the progress in implementing SDG7. In particular, participants will learn about the different methodologies implemented and challenges. Participants are expected to participate in open discussions and emerge with new ideas that could be applied in their national and/or regional planning contexts.

A *secondary* objective is to identify major energy planning gaps from the session discussions, which could potentially be included into the technical cooperation implemented by the UN RCs.

Guiding questions:

- *What are the key insights, trends, and best practices on a regional and sub-regional level for energy related SDGs tracking?*
- *What are the commonalities and differences between UN RCs in energy related SDGs tracking?*
- *Which measures are required to accelerate progress in order to achieve SDG targets?*
- *How regional complementarity between the different renewable energy sources can help to accelerate the global energy transformation?*
- *What are the lessons learnt in data interpretation and analysis based on county consultation?*
- *What are major challenges and opportunities to improve data collection capacities and processes, and what is the role of international organisations?*

Time	Content	Speakers
14:00 – 14:10	<p>The urgency for a regional cooperation in support of the implementation and progress tracking of SDG7 Why all UN Regional Commissions should work together</p>	Mr. Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
14:10 – 15:00	<p>Round Table Key Regional Insights on Tracking Progress in Sustainable Energy Brief presentations on region-specific aspects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important regional insights on energy for sustainable development, national policies and best practices to accelerate the progress towards achievement of SDGs - Lessons learnt, recommendations and next phase - Data and indicators: Limitations and the need for country consultations - The role of international organizations in supporting progress tracking 	<p>Mr. Scott Foster, UNECE Mr. Hongpeng Liu, ESCAP Mr. Rubén Contreras Lisperguer, ECLAC Ms. Radia Sedaoui, ESCWA Mr. Linus Mofor, ECA</p>
15:00 -15:25	<p>Open discussion on tracking progress in sustainable energy with contributions from member States of the UN Regional Commissions</p>	<p>Moderator: Mr. Rubén Contreras Lisperguer, ECLAC</p>
15:25 – 15:30	<p>Conclusions and reflections</p>	Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, ESCAP