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**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
Committee on Energy

**Expert Working Group on Universal Access to Modern Energy Services,  
Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Cleaner Use of Fossil Fuels**

26 August 2021, Virtual meeting  
10:00 – 12:00 hrs. and 14:00 – 16:00 hrs. (GMT+7)

**Concept Note**

**Towards the High-level Dialogue on Energy 2021  
under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Background:**

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/225, the Secretary-General will convene a High-level Dialogue on Energy at the summit level during the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2021 in New York. The Dialogue represents the first inclusive global gathering on energy under the auspices of the General Assembly since the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi in 1981.

The Dialogue presents an historic opportunity to provide transformational action on energy and will result in a forward-looking statement calling for concrete actions to further accelerate SDG7 implementation in support of the Decade of Action to deliver on the SDGs and the objectives of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, the Dialogue will also feature voluntary commitments and action, in the form of “Energy Compacts”, from Member States, sub-national authorities and non-state actors such as companies, and civil society organizations.

The High-level Dialogue on Energy consists of 5 thematic areas: 1)Energy Access; 2)Energy Transition; 3)Enabling SDGs through inclusive, Just Energy Transition; 4)Innovation, Technology and Data and; 5)Finance and Investment. Each of the themes are supported by multistakeholder technical working groups consisting of co-leads from UN and international organizations and programmes. The themes are also promoted by selected members States as the Global Theme Champions. ESCAP, IRENA and UNEP serve as co-leads of the technical working group on the Energy Transition which convened its meetings in February – May 2021 and prepared the Theme Report on Energy Transition (<https://www.un.org/en/hlde-2021/page/theme-reports>).

The coordination related to High-level Dialogue on Energy is undertaken by UN Energy, which is co-chaired by Achim Steiner, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and Damilola Ogunbiyi, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All. Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Liu Zhenmin, serves as the Dialogue Secretary-General.

To accelerate SDG 7 actions, while supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement, Energy Compacts will be mobilized during the Decade of Action by UN-Energy. The Compacts specify SDG 7 related commitments and actions and account for their impact on other SDGs and the Nationally Determined Contributions towards achieving the Paris Agreement. Energy Compacts are flexible instruments for countries to showcase their more detailed and nuanced national priorities and commitments towards developing their energy systems in-line with SDG 7 and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

The recent Ministerial Thematic Forums held virtually, from 21 to 25 June 2021, provided an important

platform for member States, international organizations, and the private sector to prepare for the High-level Dialogue on Energy, demonstrate commitments, share experiences and showcase opportunities for scaling up action towards the achievement of SDG 7 and the Paris Agreement. Many ambitious Energy Compacts were previewed during the Ministerial Thematic Forums, including: Google's 24 by 7 net zero commitment of its operations; commitments by two cement companies from India for low carbon operations, several countries like Brazil, Denmark Germany, India, and Portugal, along with others, presenting high level commitments on enhanced use of Green Hydrogen for end use sectors. Commitments from regional governments such as the Basque region and the City of Ithaca also demonstrate the role of sub national governments in driving the energy transition – through prosumer programmes, greening of transport fuel, and energy efficiency programmes for buildings. National Energy Compacts also embodied the spirit of collective action with countries such as Denmark, Dominican Republic, Netherlands, Germany, India, and Panama specifically recognizing the role of international cooperation and support in advancing both energy access and energy transition.

Small island developing states such as the Dominican Republic and Nauru made commitments demonstrating their commitment to SDG7. The Dominican Republic committed to 30 per cent of power demand coming from renewable energy sources by 2030, while Nauru aims to achieve 50 per cent of electricity generation from renewables by 2023. Further, both nations highlighted ambitious energy efficiency improvements targets of 30 per cent by 2030 (from existing levels).

Additionally, the IKEA Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation launched a \$1 billion program to end energy poverty. Additional announcements are being prepared for the HLDE and beyond.

To see the preview of some other Compacts, please visit: [Energy Compacts | United Nations](#)

### **Objectives of the EWG:**

Against this background, this meeting of EWG will be held to cover the following:

- Introduce the High-Level Dialogue on Energy and share perspectives from the Ministerial Thematic Forums.
- Update EWG members on the key outcomes of the thematic working groups.
- Discuss Energy Compacts and the importance of specific voluntary commitments through 2030.

### **Expected Outcomes of the Meeting:**

Member States from the Asia-Pacific region will be well positioned to consider engaging with the High-Level Dialogue on Energy through developing Energy Compacts.

### **Organization of the Expert Working Group Meeting:**

The meeting of the Expert Working Group will be organized in two sessions on **26 August 2021**, from **10:00 to 12:00 hrs. (session 1) and from 14:00 to 16:00 hrs (session 2) (GMT+7)**.

This meeting of EWG will be organized in partnership with Sustainable Energy For All (SEforALL) to elaborate on details and practical implementation of voluntary commitments from member States in the form of “Energy Compacts” that will detail key outcomes, milestones and implementation timelines with clear tracking frameworks towards 2030.

Microsoft Teams will be used as the e-Conference platform. Meeting language is English. For participation, please register via this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/9duYg4XGH9>

For further information, please contact Mr. Michael Williamson, Chief of Section, Energy Division (e-mail: [williamson@un.org](mailto:williamson@un.org) )