

Concept note

**10th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (IFESD),
7-8 October 2019, UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand
From Targets to Action**

Opening Plenary

**09:00-12:00, Monday 7 October 2019
Venue: UN Conference Centre**



Lead contact: Mr David Ferrari, ESCAP; e-mail: david.ferrari@un.org

Rationale and Background:

Governments, businesses and civil society organizations have made tremendous strides in bringing affordable and clean energy to more people in recent years. However, this progress has been largely uneven and must be accelerated in order to leave no one behind. More decisive policies and increased investment, particularly in least developed countries is needed to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 7 by 2030.

The 10th Forum in Bangkok will explore pathways to close the gap between targets and actions. Experts from the energy sector, representatives from governments, UN entities, international organizations and other stakeholders will discuss major issues and demonstrate actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 7 and meet commitments to mitigate climate change. There will be a series of roundtables, parallel sessions and side events about energy issues like clean cooking, access to electricity, renewable energy, energy efficiency, and cleaner use of fossil fuels. The Forum will also address the interlinkages of energy with climate change, poverty, inequality, health and gender concerns.

The Meeting is organized jointly by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) and the Ministry of Energy of Royal Thai Government.

The plenary session is open to all participants in the Forum.

Objectives:

The opening plenary session provides an opportunity for speakers to welcome attendees, stimulate the audience's thinking and set the scene for the remaining two days of the conference.

The session is intended to be engaging and informative. It should address the overall objectives of the forum and raise subjects for discussion and consideration in the coming days. Most importantly, it should stimulate the audience to consider the conference themes, to engage in the conversation and to contribute to delivering the forum objectives over the following days.

The discussion will highlight the progress that the energy transition has made to date and the opportunities that are becoming available. It will also investigate the weaknesses, threats and barriers to achieving the energy transition in the coming years.

Tentative Agenda:

09:00 — 09:30 Welcome statements (MC: Faran Rana, ESCAP)

- Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
- H.E. Mr. Sontirat Sontijirawong, Minister of Energy, the Royal Government of Thailand
- H.E. Mr. Bambang Brodjonegoro, Minister of National Development Planning (Bappenas), Republic of Indonesia

09:30 — 10:10 Keynote presentations

- Mr. Hans-Josef Fell, President of the Energy Watch Group, Former member of German Bundestag
- Mr. Riaz Fatyana, Member of the National Assembly, Chairman of Taskforce on Sustainable Development, Pakistan

10:10 — 10:30 Coffee break

10:30 — 12:00 High-level discussion panel: From targets to action

- Keynote: Ms. Roberta Quadrelli, Head of Section, Energy Data Centre, International Energy Agency (IEA)
- H.E. Mr. Evgeny Yurievich Tomikhin, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Thailand
- Mr. Hakob Vardanyan, Deputy Minister of Energy Infrastructures and Natural Resources, Armenia
- Ms. Olga Prudnikova, Deputy Minister of Energy, Belarus
- Mr. Juergen Keinhorst, Chair, UNECE Committee on Sustainable Energy
- Ms. Amanda Van den Dool, Energy and Infrastructure Lead, USAID
- Ms. Xu Qinhua, Director, Centre for International Energy and Environmental Strategy Studies, Renmin University, Beijing

- Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief, Energy Section, United Nations ESCWA
- Moderator: Mr. Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary, UN ESCAP

Expected Outputs:

The discussion will motivate the audience and stimulate thinking about the forum themes. It will emphasise the strengths and barriers that exist in each of the speakers' fields, prompting ongoing discussion around the key issues and work towards appropriate solutions in the energy transition.