

Concept note

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

Clean Cooking: Evidence and Innovations for Filling the Gap

**13:30-15:15, Monday 7 October 2019
Venue: UN Conference Centre**



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Rationale and Background:

Currently, almost 44 percent of the Asia-Pacific region (2 billion people), live without access to clean cooking, using unclean fuels and technologies that have detrimental impacts on health and the environment. ESCAP's estimation of future progress predicts that, based on current policies, by 2030 the region will attain 67.7 per cent access to clean cooking. This falls drastically short of the SDG7 target for universal access, and radical policy action will be required to fill this gap.

Globally, cooking with open fires or simple stoves fuelled by kerosene, coal, or biomass such as wood, dung, and agricultural residues leads to almost 4 million premature deaths per year. These inefficient cooking practices and the subsequent air pollution have negative health impacts including pneumonia, stroke, ischaemic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. Women are at particularly high risk since in many countries they take on primary responsibility for cooking. Children are also at high risk, as indoor air pollution almost doubles their risk of pneumonia.¹³ Fuel gathering also presents significant challenges. It consumes considerable time, particularly for women and children, who tend to be primary gatherers. This limits time that may have been spent on other productive activities such as income generation and school. In less secure environments, fuel gatherers may risk injury or violence.

Gaining access to clean cooking fuels and technologies could alleviate these problems and potentially lead to development benefits including improvements to income, education, health, and poverty. However, with cultural resistance, structural obstacles, and low adoption rates of clean fuels and technologies, effecting change in clean cooking policies and programmes has proven challenging.

Objectives:

This session will examine the greatest challenges and obstacles in advancing clean cooking. It will examine hard evidence about which policies and programmes have genuinely led to increased usage of clean fuels and technologies. Presenters will further analyse the demonstrated impacts of different clean cooking models and solutions and the lessons learned from past programmes and

policies. Speakers will furthermore discuss proposed solutions based on this evidence as well as inclusive planning and programming.

Tentative Agenda:

The following indicative timing is proposed for the session agenda:

- 13:30—13:35 Introduction
- 13:35—14:35 Panel presentations (10 minutes each)
- 14:35—15:10 Q & A
- 15:10—15:15 Conclusion & Closing

Expected Outputs:

The session will serve to promote the importance of clean cooking fuels and technologies. Clean cooking issues often receive less priority than other targets under SDG7 in spite of the fact that this target falls furthest behind. This session intends to inform about the value and importance of clean cooking in fast tracking achievement of several SDGs as well as provide evidence-based recommendations for designing and implementing effective market-based programmes for socioeconomic impact and energy security.

Moderator:

Anna-Karin Jafors, Deputy Regional Director, Asia Pacific, UN Women

Panel:

Parimita Mohanty, Programme Management Officer, Renewable Energy, United Nations Environment Asia Pacific

Lana Zaman, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Division, ESCAP

Dilip Kumar Sadaula, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Nepal

Govind Kelkar, Executive Director, **GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation**

Nick Rousseau, International Liaison Manager, Modern Energy Cooking Services, Loughborough University

Brahmanand Mohanty, Senior Advisor, **UNIDO**