Background Note for Session 6: Enhancing enabling policies for sustainable energy, technology transfer, data collection, monitoring and follow-up in LLDCs

This session will focus on how to support capacity building for enabling policies, technology transfer and data collection, monitoring and follow-up on sustainable energy for all in LLDCs.

Developing sustainable energy sectors requires strong political leadership, forward-looking long-term planning, enabling policy and regulatory framework, increased capacities to prepare and implement projects, and access to finance. The international community must provide the necessary support to leverage financial resources and help LLDCs to build their capacity in order to seize the opportunity for making access to modern energy to all a reality.

In order to promote access to modern energy, enhance energy efficiency and renewable energy, LLDC Governments need to create an enabling and supporting policy and regulatory frameworks. Developing and adopting integrated energy development policies, strategies and plans is a pre-requisite to building a strong energy sector. An enabling environment is also necessary to promote and facilitate public and private sector investment, enable technology transfer, involve a broad range of stakeholders and support bottom-up approaches.

Development partners should strengthen capacity-building in LLDCs, including education and training and in developing national and local capacities to conceptualize, implement, as well as monitor the results of energy policies and programmes. UN system and other international organizations, including Multilateral and Regional Development Banks should also provide more and better targeted technical and capacity-building assistance to support accelerated universal access, renewable energy and energy efficiency development in LLDCs, including capacity building on optimal policy, regulatory and financial frameworks for energy service provision. LLDCs also require technical assistance in the preparation of sound and financially viable sustainable energy projects.

The transfer of modern and in particular renewable energy technologies are promising ways towards sustainable low-carbon development in landlocked developing countries. Governments of developed countries should take further action to mobilize the provision of technology transfer on concessional and preferential terms and the diffusion of new and existing environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, including LLDCs, as set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. LLDCs also need to be supported in integrating their sustainable energy needs in the Technology Facilitation Mechanism. Emerging developing countries, in the context of South-South Cooperation, have a particular role to play in facilitating transfer of technology for the benefit of LLDCs and in sharing of knowledge and know-how on modern energy technologies.

In order to gauge progress and enable the LLDCs to achieve SDG 7, regular monitoring and reporting on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy is needed. Monitoring and follow-up is also an essential component in assessing the effectiveness of past energy policies and guiding future energy policy decisions and policies. However, LLDCs suffer from limited national capacities for data collection and analysis. As such, they require assistance from the international community in collecting sustainable energy statistics and indicators and reporting regularly at all levels – national, regional and global.
Key questions to address include:

1. Based on your experience with the Network for Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production (RECPnet) how do knowledge sharing/ information platforms enhance the sustainable energy efforts of countries? What are the successful experiences? How can the LLDCs be supported to foster experience sharing?

2. How can preparation of sound and financially viable sustainable energy projects be strengthened with technical assistance? What type of technical assistance has proven most effective? How can the LLDCs get more access to technical assistance on energy projects?

3. Based on your experience, how can the international community assist LLDCs in the use and transfer of science, technology and innovation to improve energy efficiency and enhance renewable energy? Please highlight examples that have worked.

4. What initiatives and/or programmes are available to support the capacities of LLDCs to collect sustainable energy statistics and indicators and monitor progress? How can they be strengthened?

5. What are the capacity building priorities for enabling policies on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency in LLDCs? How can they be best addressed through partnerships?