Background Note for Session 3: International Partnerships and Innovative Initiatives to support sustainable energy for all in the LLDCs

This session will review the international initiatives and partnerships to support sustainable energy for all in LLDCs including Official Development Assistance, South-South Cooperation, Foreign Direct Investment, the International Financial Institutions, Philanthropy, the United Nations system and other international organizations. The session will assess the support measures and initiatives that have been provided to assist LLDCs; share experiences on what has worked; identify the constraints and gaps; and provide suggestions on how to enhance international partnerships.

I. Introduction

For LLDCs to succeed in their efforts on sustainable energy for all, international cooperation and partnerships will be essential. The financing needs for energy infrastructure development and maintenance, scaling up of effective practices, and for securing renewable and energy efficient technologies are quite high. The international community must provide the necessary support to leverage financial resources and help LLDCs’ actions to build capacity in order to seize the opportunity for transformative change that will scale up poverty eradication and sustainable development in these countries.

Development partners have a role to play to support the LLDC’s efforts to develop the energy sector in generation, distribution and energy efficiency, including through renewable energy, other clean energy sources through financial and technical assistance, especially new and renewable energy technologies. Official development assistance (ODA) flows remain a major source of external financing for many LLDCs.

Multilateral development partners are encouraged to increase their technical and financial assistance to support sustainable energy for all in LLDCs. They are encouraged to increase capital flows for the implementation of sustainable energy projects in LLDCs on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, can also provide support for increasing energy access in LLDCs, energy efficiency, and renewable energy technologies in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation. It can help the LLDCs to achieve better energy security, better performance and efficiency and reduce overall costs.

Possible Questions

1. Based on your experience, which areas of sustainable energy for all (access, energy efficiency, and renewables) have been supported by Official Development Assistance in the LLDCs? Provide some examples of what has worked well (ODA’s support on energy to LLDCs) and 2 examples of key challenges and how they can they be addressed?

2. How can donor assistance help to leverage private funding for sustainable energy? What kind of support programmes are available in the European Commission that the LLDCs...
can utilize to support their sustainable energy efforts? How can these opportunities be made more accessible and beneficial to the LLDCs?

3. What are the available initiatives or funding mechanisms/resources on sustainable energy that the LLDCs can utilize to support their programmes? Based on your experience, what is working well that you would recommend for scaling up? How could the LLDCs be assisted to utilize these initiatives or funding?

4. Based on your experience with the OPEC Fund for International Development what are some of the challenges that the LLDCs facing in mobilizing financial resources for sustainable energy? How can they be addressed?

5. How can the LLDCs be best supported to enhance their access to climate and energy finance?