Guiding Questions for Group Discussions

Based on the substantive sessions the purpose of the group discussions is to consult on the specific elements to be included in the Conclusions and Recommendations that will be adopted in the closing session of the meeting. Each group is requested to prepare in writing specific action oriented recommendations and deliverables and present them during the way forward session.

Group 1 – National strategies to achieve global goals on sustainable energy

The group will discuss and suggest recommendations to strengthen national energy policies and strategies and how to ensure their effective implementation in order improve access to energy, efficiency and renewable energy. The group will also discuss recommendations to enhance the preparation of the national SE4All Action Agenda and the accompanying investment prospectus.

Guiding questions:
1. What are the key recommendations to improve energy access to modern, and sustainable energy services, including to the most vulnerable groups?
2. What are the key recommendations to enhance energy efficiency?
3. What are the key recommendations to scale up renewable energy in LLDCs?
4. What are the priority actions and concrete measures that partnerships can focus on to help the LLDCs successfully address the challenges and barriers?
5. What are 3 or 4 specific or concrete deliverables at national level that are key to successful achievement of SDG7 in the LLDCs?

Group 2 – Enhancing regional cooperation

Regional and sub-regional cooperation or integration plays an important role in addressing the specific problems of landlocked developing countries including integration of networks and markets, enhancing system flexibility, harmonization of policies and regulatory frameworks, regional power pooling and energy trade and establishment of regional projects. The group will discuss recommendations on how to enhance regional cooperation to support the LLDCs on sustainable energy.

Guiding questions:

1. Regional policies and implementation mechanisms in the EU and ECOWAS have considerably contributed to the acceleration of national sustainable energy policy processes. How useful such regional policy processes are for other LLDC regions and how proven mechanisms could be replicated (e.g. SADC, EAC, Himalaya-Hindukush)? Which role the sub-regional level can play in the development and implementation of the INDCs, SE4ALL Action Agendas and Investment Prospectuses?

2. Which role regional organizations and related centers can play to support and facilitate financing operations of regional development banks directed towards SE4ALL? How
3. How domestic capacities to collect and manage reliable energy statistics, indicators, bankable investment data can be strengthened. How the sub-regional level can assist in supporting these efforts? Which added value have regional information systems such as the ECOWAS Observatory for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECOWREX)? How international data and reports can be smartly combined with capacity building for domestic data capacities?

4. Increased financing and policy action are required to accelerate gender mainstreaming. How women empowerment is considered in (sustainable) energy planning and implementation in various LLDC regions? Which progress has been achieved and how sub-regional gender initiatives such as the ECOWAS Programme on Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access (ECOW-GEN) can be replicated in other LLDC regions?

5. Innovation and entrepreneurship in the sustainable energy sector are grounded in the application of scientific research. However, most LLDCs are ranked very low on the Global Innovation Index and the link between applied research and the private sector remains weak. Due to the absence of domestic sustainable energy industries, the local value and job creation effects of sustainable energy value chains remain low and services and equipment continue to be imported. How regional cooperation can empower local energy entrepreneurs and companies in LLDCs to take advantage from the growing sustainable energy investments and markets?

6. To increase the competitiveness and productivity of industries and SMEs in LLDCs there is need to up-scale the use of energy management standards and systems (e.g. ISO 50001), as well as cleaner production practices. How sub-regional cooperation can facilitate the dissemination of industrial energy efficiency standards in line with the established SE4ALL Energy Efficiency Accelerator?

**Group 3 – Financing sustainable energy transition in LLDCs**

The group will discuss recommendations on how to improve financing at the national level in LLDCs. Domestic resource mobilization and private sector engagement have to be scaled-up with appropriate and innovative instruments. Blended finance will be crucial in accelerating the energy transition in these countries in areas where market does not reach. The use of ODA to leverage other sources of development finance, particularly for preparing bankable projects, creating enabling environment and channeling stable and increased long-term private capital to energy sector has to be enhanced.

**Guiding questions:**

1. What are the key recommendations to strengthen domestic resources mobilization for supporting sustainable energy?

2. What are the key recommendations to strengthen private sector role in financing sustainable energy?

3. What are the key recommendations for strengthening the role of ODA in supporting sustainable energy?
4. What are the key recommendations to support the LLDCs in accessing finance for sustainable energy? Indicate the sources of finance including Climate Finance and the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

5. Provide 3 or 4 specific deliverables that can yield results in a short period of time.

**Group 4 – Building Innovative Partnerships**

For LLDCs to succeed in their efforts to achieve sustainable energy for all, international cooperation and partnerships are essential. For rapid energy transition multi-stakeholder approach is needed that includes all the players from off grid, mini-grid and to on-grid, private sector, local development banks, local investment pools to civil society and different line ministries. All actors should pull their respective strengths together to ensure rapid progress. The group will discuss recommendations on how to improve partnerships to support the LLDCs in developing energy infrastructure, accelerating energy access, accessing technology, enhancing efficiency and promoting renewable energy. Different aspects of partnerships – capacity building, data collection, policy development, experience sharing, technology transfer and others.

**Guiding questions:**

1. What types of partnerships and projects have been successful and what are the key reasons for their success? Provide recommendations on how to scale up and replicate these successful initiatives?
2. How can international level partnerships be enhanced to accelerate progress of LLDCs to achieve sustainable energy for all?
3. Provide 3 or 4 specific deliverables that can yield results in a short period of time.