

# SDG 7 PARTNERSHIP EXCHANGE

FEB  
2018

REGISTER INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS & PARTNERSHIPS FOR SDG 7

JUNE  
2018

ANALYSIS OF BEST PRACTICES & GAPS

JULY  
2018

## SIDE EVENT REPORT

<b>Title of side event:</b>	Energy Access for Structural Transformation and Sustainable Development in Least Developed Countries
<b>SDG7 target(s) addressed:</b>	7.1, 7.2, 7.A, 7.B
<b>Other SDG(s) addressed:</b>	1, 2, 9, 17
<b>Time and venue:</b>	21 February 2018, 10:10 – 11:40, MR-G
<b>Organized by:</b>	UNCTAD and UN-OHRLLS
<b>Reporter's name, affiliation and contact details:</b>	Rolf Traeger, UNCTAD, rolf.traeger@un.org, tel: +41 22 917 57 71 Rita Ruohonen, UN-OHRLLS, ruohonen@un.org

### 1. Agenda

- Welcome by the moderator, Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section, UNCTAD
- Opening Remarks by Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa 'Utoikamanu, High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
- Remarks by the Panelists:
  - Mr. Sahele Tamiru Fekede, Director, Directorate for Energy Study and Development, Ministry of Water Irrigation and Electricity, Ethiopia;
  - Mr. Harun-Or-Rashid Khan, Director General, Hydrocarbon Unit, Energy Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Bangladesh;
  - Mr. Callixte Kambanda, Division Manager, Policy, Regulation and Statistics, Energy Solutions, Policy and Regulation Department, African Development Bank.
- Interactive Dialogue
  - Lead discussant, Mr. Narayan Khatiwada, Programme Director, National Planning Commission Secretariat, Nepal;
  - Remarks and questions from the floor
- Closing remarks, Mr. Rolf Traeger, Chief, LDC Section, UNCTAD

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## 2. Summary of the session

### 2.1. Key issues and challenges addressed in the event

- Energy and SGG7 are not a sectoral issues, but rather enablers of several other sectors and SDGs. Access to energy is instrumental for building more inclusive and sustainable life paths for all, and especially for women and girls.
- Energy – and especially transformational energy access – is a condition for the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, and for achieving productivity gains. Thereby, transformational energy access is an enabler of countries' graduation from the LDC status.
- Reaching universal energy access entails enormous investment needs, estimated at an annual \$30 billion in the case of Africa.
- LDCs have advanced strongly in expanding access to energy. Moreover, some LDCs – such as Bangladesh and Ethiopia – have been successful in rapidly widening access to modern energy, establishing the energy-transformation nexus and setting up strong linkages between energy production and productive uses in agriculture, industry and services.

### 2.2. Key messages, outcomes, recommendations

- Despite the progress achieved so far, energy access gaps and shortcomings in the LDCs are still the widest in the world. Pursuing current trends will not be enough to reach SDG7. Therefore, LDCs need to accelerate their pace of progress. This requires strong political commitment and leadership, capable of breaking the vicious circle of low levels of energy production and consumption.
- To accelerate energy access, LDCs should exploit their vast endowments of renewable resources in a sustainable way. This will also have the positive effect of reducing their energy import requirements.
- Public finance plays a catalytic role in mobilizing the funds required to meet the energy investment needs of LDCs. This includes both national domestic and international (multilateral and ODA) financing. They provide the initial impulse which is required to crowd in private investment in energy. Partnerships are major vehicles for accelerating progress in energy access. However, LDC policymakers need to select responsible private investors (including the foreign ones) which effectively help LDCs achieve their development goals.

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- Institutions are crucial to reach SDG7. These include adequate regulatory and legal frameworks, policy-making capacity, and adequate data collection, processing and dissemination. These institutions need to guarantee people's rights, inclusiveness and energy affordability. In turn, this will require subsidizing parts of the population in the short-to-medium term in most LDCs. Paying attention to all these elements will make it possible to reach universal energy access in these countries.
- Strategies and plans for the energy sector need to be coherent and synergistic with broader development plans and policies, e.g. agricultural and industrial policies, as well as take into consideration the energy demand profile of the poorest people and ensure access to affordable energy. Strategies should be designed to meet the unique needs and resources of each country with the necessary mix of grid, mini-grid and off-grid solutions. Productive uses generate demand at a scale that justifies undertaking the necessary heavy investment in energy.
- To fast-track progress, LDCs will require increased support from their development partners in strengthening capacity for design, financing and implementation of bankable projects.
- The regional dimension is an enabler of progress towards SDG7, which should be further exploited, as it allows significant costs savings, and exploiting complementarities between countries. This refers to electric power pools, and regional initiatives for research and development on energy and for capacity-building. Regional schemes can allow several LDCs to exploit their potential to become energy exporters.
- Given the rapid pace of technological change in the energy sector and the lingering gaps in energy supply in LDCs, these countries should use the possibility of leapfrogging to more recent technologies when investing in new projects and plants.
- LDC policymakers are invited to give the environmental dimension of the energy industry equal weight as its economic and social dimension.

### 3. Innovative solutions/partnerships

*Please refer to item 2.2 above.*

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## 4. Annexes (please provide pictures, presentations, background documents as relevant)



**Concept Note:** [http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2018/02/Global\\_SDG7\\_Conference\\_LDC\\_event\\_Concept\\_Note.pdf](http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2018/02/Global_SDG7_Conference_LDC_event_Concept_Note.pdf)

**Presentation by the AfDB :** <http://unohrlls.org/custom-content/uploads/2018/02/African-Development-Bank-Presentation-Access-to-electricity-in-Africa-FINAL.pdf>

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Organized in the margins of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) every July, **the Partnership Exchange** is United Nations' annual global gathering for reviewing existing multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments, and launching new ones, in supporting the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Feeding into the Partnership Exchange, **the SDG7 Multi-stakeholder Partnership Exchange** was a special day-long programme during the Global SDG7 Conference (Bangkok, 21-23 February 2018) designed to facilitate sharing of experiences from on-going partnerships and provide a global launching pad for new partnerships and voluntary commitments from all stakeholders, in support of the achievement of SDG7. This one-day programme was structured around a series of side events featuring diverse partnerships and experiences from across the world to highlight innovative approaches in driving affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. An emphasis was placed on those initiatives that demonstrate concrete interlinkages between SDG7 and other SDGs.

This event made the start of the call for multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments that advance the implementation of SDG7 toward HLPF 2018. **All stakeholders are encouraged to register their initiatives in *Partnerships for SDGs* online platform at**

**<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/EnergyConference/PartnershipExchange>**

These initiatives will also have an opportunity to feed into the global *2018 Partnership Exchange special event*, to be held on 13 July 2018 in the margins of the 2018 HLPF at United Nations in New York. The full Programme for the SDG7 Partnership Exchange will be posted at:

**<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/EnergyConference/programme>**

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