POLICY BRIEFS IN SUPPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2020

ACCELERATING SDG 7 ACHIEVEMENT IN THE TIME OF COVID-19
SDG 7 POLICY BRIEFS IN SUPPORT OF HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

2018
First Global Review of SDG7 on ENERGY
Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

2019
HLPF under the auspices of the ECOSOC - July
SDG Summit - September

2020
Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development
Advancing SDG 7 in the face of COVID-19: implications and way forward

Advancing SDG 7 Implementation in support of the 2030 Agenda

Advancing SDG 7 through NDCs

Regional perspective
- Asia and the Pacific
- Arab Region
- UNECE Region
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Least Developed Countries

UNLDC-V in 2021

Regional Perspective

Toward a sustainable and equitable energy future
- Multi-Tier Framework
- Energy scenarios guiding the energy transition
- Energy access in displacement settings
- Global Energy Interconnection

Interlinkages

NDCs

Implementation

COVID-19

Strengthening interlinkages

contributing to the HLPF 2020 thematic topics
- Advancing human well-being
- Ending hunger and achieving food security for all
- Protecting the planet and building resilience
- Sharing economic benefits
- Bolstering local action to accelerate implementation
We must maintain global momentum to accelerate a shift towards decarbonised, climate resilient energy systems and universal energy access.

Although the world continues to advance toward SDG 7, overall efforts are falling well short of the scale required to reach the SDG 7 targets by 2030.

Far more needs to be done to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 in pursuit of the 1.5°C goal.

Post COVID-19 recovery strategies present opportunities for economies to become greener and more resilient—based on the SDG 7 targets.

We call on all Member States and other stakeholders to drive the global energy transformation forward by forming transformational partnerships.
COVID-19: IMPLICATIONS FOR SDG 7 PROGRESS

➢ Energy services are essential for fighting the pandemic – including for powering healthcare facilities and keeping medicines cold, supplying clean water for people to wash their hands, and providing communications services to connect people, share information, and facilitate education during social distancing.

➢ Expanding these services through increased investments in sustainable energy solutions will aid countries in responding to the pandemic while also creating significant green jobs, empowering women, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and advancing other Sustainable Development Goals.

➢ The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement should be used as a road map towards more resilient societies with stronger health systems, fewer people living in extreme poverty, more gender equality, and a healthier natural environment.

➢ The COVID-19 crisis will likely have serious effects on SDG 7 progress.

   • 2020 is set to see the largest decline in energy investment on record, a reduction of 20% – or almost US$ 400 billion – in capital spending compared with 2019.

   • The pandemic could either widen the existing sustainable energy access gaps or accelerate the path towards achieving SDG 7, depending on the priorities of national recovery efforts.
Building back better to achieve SDGs and the Paris Agreement: Integrated sustainable energy solutions package

- **Sustainable energy solutions** integrated into COVID-19 responses and recovery strategies
- **Enhanced NDCs** as a framework for green investment through economic recovery packages
- **Modern energy services** that save lives
- **Renewables and energy efficiency** to create green jobs
- **Phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies**
- **Just transition strategies** to support the phase-out of coal
- Support vulnerable groups to **leave no one behind**
- **A more gender-equal** response and recovery
- **A transition from energy intensive lifestyles to more sustainable patterns**
- Development activities to prioritise **green investment**
- **Strengthen international cooperation and multilateralism**

- Better health services
- Green jobs and growth
- Empowered women
- Clean air and reduced pollution
- Net zero emissions pathways
- Resilient communities
- Partnerships
- Strengthen international cooperation