Sustainable Energy for All

A Framework for Action

The Secretary-General's

High-level Group

on Sustainable Energy for All

January 2012

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S
HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON
SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL

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Co-Chairs:
Kandeh Yumkella, *Director-General, UN Industrial Development Organisation; Chair, UN-Energy*
Charles Holliday, *Chairman, Bank of America*

Principals:
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Suleiman Jasir Al-Herbish, *Director-General, OPEC Fund for International Development*
Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, *CEO and Managing Director, MASDAR*
Adnan Amin, *Director General, International Renewable Energy Agency*
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Helen Clark, *Administrator, United Nations Development Programme*
Luciano Coutinho, *President, Brazilian Development Bank*
Brian Dames, *CEO, ESKOM*
Aliko Dangote, *President and CEO, Dangote Group*
Christine Eibs Singer, *CEO, E+Co*
Ditlev Engel, *President and CEO, Vestas*
Wolfgang Engshuber, *Chairman, Principles for Responsible Investment*
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Edison Lobão, *Minister of Energy and Mines of Brazil*
Peter Löscher, *President and CEO, Siemens*
Helge Lund, *CEO, Statoil*
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Ibrahim Mayaki, *CEO, The New Partnership for Africa's Development*
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José da Costa Carvalho Neto, *CEO, Eletrobras*
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James E. Rogers, *Chairman, President & CEO, Duke Energy*
Sanjit 'Bunker' Roy, *Founder and Director, Barefoot College*
Shi Zhengrong, *CEO, Suntech Power Holdings*
Andrew Steer, *Special Envoy for Climate Change, World Bank Group*
Achim Steiner, *Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme*
Timothy E. Wirth, *President, UN Foundation*

Technical Group:
Al Binger, *Caribbean Community Climate Change Center*
Fatih Birol, *International Energy Agency*
Abeeku Brew-Hammond, *Energy Commission for Ghana*
Mark Fulton, *Deutsche Bank*
Vijay Iyer, *World Bank*
Daniel Kammen, *University of California, Berkeley*
Susan McDade, *UN Resident Coordinator for Uruguay*
Vijay Modi, *Columbia University*
Nebojsa Nakicenovic, *International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis; Vienna University of Technology*
Petter Nore, *Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation*
Richard Samans, *Global Green Growth Institute*
Leena Srivastava, *The Energy and Resources Institute*

Contents

Preface 4

Foreword 5

Executive summary 6

1. A world with sustainable energy for all is achievable 7
2. We must all act together to realise this vision – and all will benefit 11
3. Sustainable Energy for All will mobilise, support and monitor commitments in a set of high-impact areas 16
4. All parties are invited to join Sustainable Energy for All with commitments to act 22

Preface

Energy is the golden thread that connects economic growth, increased social equity, and an environment that allows the world to thrive.

I understand the importance of energy from my own experience. When I was a young boy in post-war Korea, I studied by a dim and smoky oil lamp at night. Only when I prepared for examinations was I allowed to use a candle. This memory has stayed with me throughout my life.

Widespread energy poverty condemns billions to darkness, to ill health, to missed opportunities for education and prosperity. That is why I say that energy poverty must end.

Development is not possible without energy, and sustainable development is not possible without sustainable energy.

We need to scale up successful examples of clean energy and energy-efficient technologies. We need innovation to spread throughout the world – especially where energy demand is growing fastest. We need partnerships with the private sector, the global engine of growth and the primary source of new investments.

A new business model is emerging in the United Nations – where governments, businesses, investors, and civil society come together to solve public problems. I have appointed a High-level Group representing these sectors to spearhead action toward Sustainable Energy for All.

I urge all who read this Framework for Action to engage with my High-level Group. Bring us your best ideas and boldest commitments. This Framework is the basis for a robust Action Agenda that we will develop in advance of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development. It proposes national and international action to expand energy access, promote energy efficiency, and strengthen investment in renewables.

But Rio is only the beginning of a multi-year mission to achieve Sustainable Energy for All. We are here to build a new energy future, a future that harnesses the power of technology and innovation in the service of people and the planet.

I am personally committed to this mission and to mobilising the entire UN system behind it. But we cannot do it alone. We need your partnership, your support, your commitment, your leadership and your action.

By working together, by dedicating our energies and resources to our common cause, we have the chance today to set a new course for generations to come. We can create the future we want.

Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations

January 2012

Foreword

We come from very different backgrounds – one of us from a poor village in Sierra Leone, trained in agricultural economics, with a career in government and the United Nations; the other from the United States, trained as an engineer, who has been honored to lead two global companies, DuPont and Bank of America. Yet the two of us are of one mind on the importance of sustainable energy and the need for collaboration to ensure that every person on Earth has the opportunities that energy provides.

The Secretary-General's initiative on Sustainable Energy for All presents a new path to partnership to create the conditions for successful investment in the energy transformation that the world requires. Supplying modern energy services to the billions who now lack electricity and clean fuels is not just a moral imperative but a unique business opportunity – a huge market in itself and one that will create new levels of prosperity and demand for goods and services of all kinds. Equipping the rest of the world with low-carbon energy technologies for a sustainable planet is an even bigger, trillion-dollar opportunity. If we work together – businesses, investors, governments, and civil society – to create these markets and reduce risk, investment will surely follow.

Our High-level Group is committed to delivering real action on the ground – not another report, not just words and promises. Toward each of the Secretary-General's three objectives – on energy access, energy efficiency, and renewable energy – we see opportunity:

- New investment plans for developing countries can lead to action if national governments, development banks, leaders of business and finance, and civil society organisations take steps to enable private capital to flow. These steps must include new commitments by all stakeholders – new financial mechanisms to mitigate risk, revised regulatory frameworks to ensure returns on investment, and programs of education and capacity building to support thriving markets.

- Leaders in government – not just at the national level, but in cities, states, and regions as well – have shown that efficiency standards can deliver cost-effective results for consumers: better refrigerators that cost the same but use less energy; new vehicle designs that deliver more power with less fuel; and buildings that require less energy to heat and cool – or even send power back to the grid. Sharing and adopting these practices more widely among nations and industrial sectors can make energy more reliable and less expensive to homes and businesses.

- Steadily falling costs for renewable energy technologies – ranging from wind farms to solar lanterns, from giant geothermal power plants to small-scale facilities that convert food and farm waste into clean natural gas for cooking and other uses – make these alternatives increasingly attractive economically all over the world. Financing mechanisms are needed that balance their higher initial costs against the fact that their fuel is, in many cases, free forever.

This Framework for Action is the first step toward new partnerships to realise these opportunities and others like them. We propose a focus on high-impact areas where businesses, governments, and civil society can work together on specific and concrete steps to bring about greater investment and deployment of energy systems. A few examples are suggested in this document; we urge all stakeholders to bring forward additional ideas and commitments to move toward Sustainable Energy for All – at Rio this June and in the months and years beyond, as we embark on a path toward achieving the Secretary-General's inspiring vision for 2030.

Chad Holliday and Kandeh Yumkella, Co-Chairs of the High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All

January 2012

Executive summary

Achieving *Sustainable Energy for All* is essential to reaching the Millennium Development Goals while growing our economies and safeguarding the environment. At a time when 1.3 billion people worldwide lack access to electricity, when 2.7 billion people do not have clean and safe cooking facilities, and when a shift to sustainable energy use is imperative to protect the Earth's climate, the Secretary-General has launched a global initiative to achieve *Sustainable Energy for All*. The initiative aims to bring together the three pillars of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. **Stakeholders are urged to take concrete action toward achieving three critical objectives by 2030:**

- Ensuring **universal access** to modern energy services.
- Doubling the global rate of improvement in **energy efficiency**.
- Doubling the share of **renewable energy** in the global energy mix.

The Secretary-General's High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All believes that these objectives are fully attainable by 2030. Several countries have demonstrated rapid electrification; programmes in the EU, Japan and elsewhere show that energy efficiency improvements can be both effective and profitable; and in many countries, renewables like hydro, geothermal, wind and solar energy are already competitive alternatives to fossil fuels. Pursuing the three objectives simultaneously will make each easier to accomplish, while realising multiple benefits and maximising their joint impact.

Stakeholders will benefit by joining this effort. The transition to sustainable energy systems presents a large opportunity – perhaps one of the greatest economic opportunities of the 21st century. At a time of financial challenge, businesses will gain access to new or expanded markets; forge productive new partnerships; develop cutting-edge technologies and products; form new relationships with policy makers; and enjoy more reliable power supplies. Governments will attract new investment and tap new sources of expertise; donor countries will improve the effectiveness of their aid efforts. Civil society organisations will be able to scale up current efforts and increase their impact.

Joint action will bring transformational change. Progress toward sustainable energy for all is often obstructed by multiple, interlocking barriers; overcoming these barriers will require multiple, mutually reinforcing actions – appropriate to local circumstances and resource availability. Stakeholders are urged to form partnerships locally, nationally, regionally and globally to facilitate progress.

All stakeholders must act – businesses, governments, and civil society. Each can play to its own strengths and interests: improving policies and institutional capacity; supporting technological and value chain innovation; ensuring that public resources are used to maximise the flow of private investment; and stimulating end-user efficiency through education and new delivery models.

This initiative will mobilise and facilitate commitments, and monitor progress. Through these activities the initiative will help bring strategic focus to individual actions, scale up existing best practices and successful initiatives, support their coordination and identify synergies, foster partnerships, and provide all stakeholders with clear indicators of progress towards the initiative's goals.

The initiative will focus particularly on 'high-impact areas.' The three objectives of Sustainable Energy for All are broad and encompass many sectors of the economy. Grouping commitments will build strategic coherence and facilitate scale-up and monitoring. Stakeholders will find it easier to see where they fit into the broader effort. Members of the High-level Group will lead the way in key opportunity areas, which may target one objective or cut across several, to inspire commitments by other stakeholders.

The High-level Group will develop an Action Agenda identifying concrete opportunities and an Accountability Framework to facilitate implementation. All countries, businesses, and organisations are invited to participate and make commitments to concrete actions. A simple process will enable parties to opt in, develop commitments, and participate in a cycle of action, learning, reporting, review and recognition. By the time of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June, Rio+20, we will have charted a clear path to reach our common goal: *Sustainable Energy for All.*

1. A world with sustainable energy for all is achievable

1.1 **Access to modern energy services is fundamental to human development and an investment in our collective future.** Be it for health, education, the empowerment of women, food production, security, the mitigation of climate change, the creation of new jobs or the expansion of markets, access to sustainable energy for all is essential for strengthening economies, eliminating poverty, protecting ecosystems, and achieving a more equitable society. Energy lies at the heart of all countries' and businesses' core interests.

1.2 **Despite this, one out of every five people on Earth lives without access to electricity.**[1] Their chance to break out of poverty is severely constrained without modern energy services for productive uses – working, learning, or operating a business. **Two people in five worldwide use wood, charcoal, animal waste, or coal to cook their meals and heat their homes.** This means billions of individuals are exposed on a daily basis to smoke and fumes that damage their health. In particular women and children are disproportionally affected by the lack of access to modern energy services.

1.3 **Where modern energy services are adequate or plentiful, the challenge is different.** Emissions of greenhouse gases, largely from the use of fossil fuels, are changing the Earth's climate to the detriment of all who depend on the planet's natural systems for survival. Climate change threatens food and water security for hundreds of millions of people around the world. Extreme weather events are growing more frequent and intense, in rich and poor countries alike, devastating lives, infrastructure, institutions and budgets. Competition for scarce resources is increasing, exacerbating old conflicts and creating new ones. As lands degrade, forests shrink, and sea levels rise, the movement of people driven from their homes by environmental change may reshape the human geography of the planet.

1.4 **Recognising the importance and urgency of these energy challenges, the United Nations General Assembly has declared 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.** Additionally, the General Assembly, in deciding to organise the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 (Rio+20), made one of its principal themes "a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication" – for which sustainable energy must be a central element.

1.5 **UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on governments, businesses, and civil society partners globally** to support the goal of Sustainable Energy for All. Toward that end, he has convened a High-level Group of leaders from governments, international organisations, civil society and business to develop recommendations for action. The work of the High-level Group builds on related efforts to-date, including the Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC).

1.6 **The Secretary-General has set three ambitious but achievable objectives by 2030**:

- Ensuring **universal access** to modern energy services.
- Doubling the global rate of improvement in **energy efficiency**.
- Doubling the share of **renewable energy** in the global energy mix.

These are ambitious objectives that will require concerted effort, significant deployment of human and financial capital, unprecedented cooperation by stakeholders, and a decisive shift away from business-as-usual trajectories. The initiative thus brings together all three pillars of sustainable development –

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1 International Energy Agency (IEA) (2011): *World Energy Outlook 2011 (WEO)*; based on the New Policies Scenario. IEA defines modern energy access as "a household having reliable and affordable access to clean cooking facilities, a first connection to electricity and then an increasing level of electricity consumption over time to reach the regional average" (IEA op. cit.). However, there is no universally agreed definition.

economic, social and environmental – and its effects will penetrate virtually all sectors of the society, from energy supply to consumption, in developing and developed countries alike.

1.7 **Achieving each of the three objectives would realise multiple, substantial benefits to countries, companies and society.** Energy is the world's largest industry, and the transition to sustainable energy systems provides perhaps one of the largest global economic opportunities of the 21st century – particularly important at a time of financial hardship in many nations. Developed countries face the combined challenge and opportunity of transforming existing infrastructure; developing countries have the opportunity to adopt cleaner, more efficient technology from the start; leapfrogging technologies and infrastructure that developed countries had to establish.

- **Energy access** is increasingly seen as a vital catalyst to wider social and economic development, enabling education, health and sustainable agriculture, and creating jobs. Energy for productive uses is particularly important to enable local business innovation and create a more vibrant economy for communities and countries, while providing societal benefits as well. A 2006 study by the World Health Organisation found that introducing cleaner cook stoves improves livelihoods, stimulates development, and contributes to environmental sustainability, while also improving health and reducing illness-related expenditures. Progress towards universal energy access will thus make a substantial contribution to meeting the Millennium Development Goals and to promoting sustainable development.

- Reaching the **energy efficiency** objective will increase global resource productivity, create new economic growth areas with local job creation, and increase the quality of life of all citizens. Energy efficiency means cutting out waste and getting more done with the same amount of energy – a step made even more critical by the fact that three billion more consumers will enter the middle class by 2030, according to the OECD. Many energy efficiency measures are rational investments today, if barriers are removed. The International Energy Agency's (IEA's) World Energy Outlook 2006 estimated that each additional $1 spent on energy efficiency in electrical equipment, appliances, and buildings avoids more than $2, on average, in energy supply investments.

- Investing in **renewable energy** also creates local jobs and growth, and improves energy security for countries that lack domestic fossil resources. Increasing the share of energy from renewable sources can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and local pollution, insulate countries from fuel price volatility, and improve their balance of payments. Renewable energy is also becoming increasingly cost-competitive. Hydro, geothermal and bio-energy have long been competitive where resources are good, and wind and solar are also economically attractive in many locations.

1.8 **Achieving the Sustainable Energy for All objectives is also consistent with limiting the increase in mean global temperature to below two degrees Celsius in the long run**. The IEA's *World Energy Outlook 2011* finds that early investments in sustainable energy pay off: for every $1 of investment undertaken in the power sector before 2020, $4.30 in spending to compensate for increased emissions can be avoided after 2020.

1.9 **The High-level Group believes that each objective is achievable, and each supports the others.** Existing technologies, business models, and regulatory best practices can produce substantial progress toward the Sustainable Energy for All objectives – with a concerted effort to scale up successful models. Innovation and new technologies will bring us even closer. However, on a global scale, projections indicate little progress toward the three objectives of Sustainable Energy for All if the world continues on its current path.

1.10 **On energy access, 1 billion people are expected to remain without electricity in 2030,** based on existing and expected energy policies and global population projections.[1] With regard to clean cooking and heating, the gains foreseen under existing and expected policies will not keep pace with population

growth. Absent further action, **the number of people without modern stoves and fuels** is expected to remain virtually unchanged from today – 2.7 billion people (Figure 1).

1.11 **However, universal energy access by 2030 could be achieved with an increase of just 3 per cent of global investment in energy infrastructure**, according to the IEA. This amounts to an annual investment of $48 billion, with clear and substantial benefits for economic and social development. The feasibility of universal energy access is illustrated by the rapid electrification that has been achieved through national programs in several developing countries, as well as by the numerous success stories of small-scale businesses, entrepreneurs and civil society organisations delivering energy access from the bottom up.

1.12 **On energy efficiency, doubling the global rate of improvement would deliver large energy savings and productivity gains.** Studies by the IEA and others have identified the largest potentials in the sectors of industry, transport, and buildings, with appliances and lighting as major elements. Progress toward the objective will be most easily measured within each sector and application area, on the basis of energy per work done. On a global level, energy intensity is a measure of how much energy is needed to produce a unit of economic value, and a doubling of the global improvement rate would imply a 2.4 per cent annual efficiency gain by 2030, compared to 1.2 percent from 1970 to 2008, according to the forthcoming Global Energy Assessment (GEA) from the International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis[2] (Figure 2).

1.13 **However, achieving the energy efficiency objective is possible with concerted effort.** Similar improvements have occurred at national and regional levels in the past and can be achieved globally. Indeed, both research and practical experience in countries and regions that have implemented ambitious energy efficiency programmes, such as the EU, Korea, Japan, and the US state of California, demonstrate that the objective can be reached through profitable energy efficiency projects that pay back the investment during their lifetime from reduced energy use. The IEA says that existing and emerging technologies could realise energy efficiency gains in developed and developing countries that would save over half of the currently projected increase in global energy consumption by 2030, and by consequence avoid unnecessary investments in energy infrastructure.

1.14 **On renewable energy, doubling the share of these resources in the world's energy mix requires substantial gains.** Renewable energy must increase from around 15 per cent of final energy demand to around 30 per cent, according to GEA figures.[3] Existing and expected policies, as detailed in the IEA's New Policies Scenario, will leave the renewable share of final energy at less than 20 per cent in 2030 (Figure 3).

1.15 **However, the use of renewable energy can be sharply raised with increased investment and coordinated action.** Some countries already have strong commitments to renewable energy, partly due to suitable cost-effective resources but also because of strategic and regulatory priorities. Brazil and Norway are two examples of the former, Germany and China of the latter. Both the IEA's 450 Scenario and the GEA indicate that reaching the objective requires a combination of energy efficiency and increased use of renewables in power generation, transportation, buildings and industry. The increase is consistent with the targets of some of the world's largest economies, including the European Union and China. In areas where there is no electricity grid, off-grid renewable hydro, bio-based, wind and solar energy are already highly competitive alternatives to fossil fuels.

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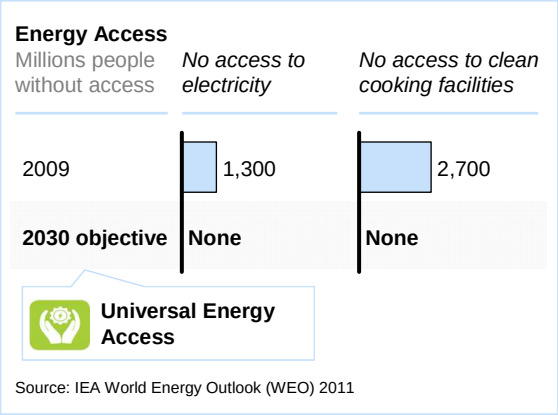
2 The energy efficiency objective is stated as a global aggregate goal, inasmuch the baseline rate of improvement in energy efficiency for any individual economy will vary for many reasons, including economic structure, level of development, and prior effort to realize energy efficiency opportunities.

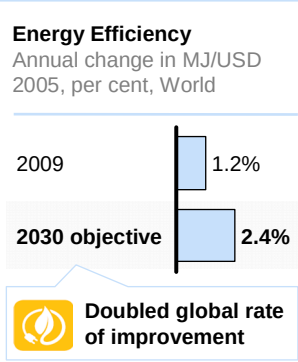
3 Renewable power use is translated into final energy equivalents. Large hydro and biomass are considered renewable energy.

Figure 1



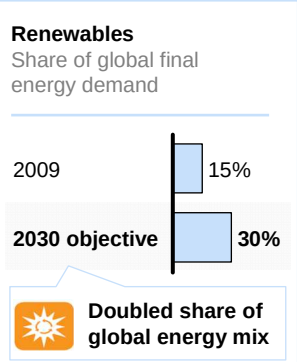
Source: IEA World Energy Outlook (WEO) 2011

Figure 2



Source: Global Energy Assessment

Figure 3



Source: IEA WEO 2011; GEA

1.16 **Pursuing the three objectives of Sustainable Energy for All in concert will maximise their benefits and assist their implementation.** The three objectives are in many ways complementary and reinforce each other. Increased energy efficiency, for example, makes the renewables target easier to reach because less energy is needed to power end-use devices.[4] Conversely, achieving universal access to modern energy services is linked to the other two objectives, because, for example, liquefied petroleum gas or other fossil fuels may be used to replace traditional biomass in cooking and heating – half of today's global consumption of renewable energy. These overlapping issues need to be tackled together, not in isolation, recognising specific conditions and circumstances at various levels.

1.17 **The High-level Group will develop a roadmap for each objective, with appropriate intermediate milestones to 2030, to mobilise the early and concerted action required of all stakeholders.** Milestones will take different shapes for different objectives; quick action and early traction is possible in some areas; others require more enabling action in the early years before progress can be made. Energy access is an example of the former, with rapid electrification achieved in some countries through strong national intervention. Energy efficiency, on the other hand, is an objective where several barriers need to be addressed before substantial results can be expected.

1.18 **All stakeholders are invited to act upon the Secretary-General's vision of Sustainable Energy for All.** The initiative provides a platform for mobilising multiple stakeholders behind coordinated and cooperative action. Both short- and long-term commitments should be formulated to be easily and regularly reviewed and assessed against the overall objectives. Section Two lays out in further detail why each type of organisation should engage, how all have roles to play, and what benefits can be gained by coordinating commitments. Section Three shows how the initiative will help mobilise and coordinate commitments through a number of 'high-impact areas' and provides four illustrative examples. Finally, Section Four describes principles and next steps for the initiative.

4 The Global Energy Assessment found in its analysis that it is much more costly and less feasible to double the share of renewables unless there are significant gains in energy efficiency.

2. We must all act together to realise this vision – and all will benefit

2.1 **All stakeholders and individuals have important roles to play to achieve Sustainable Energy for All, and all will realise benefits by committing to that vision.** By supporting the objectives of Sustainable Energy for All with concrete actions, stakeholders will help create a better world that delivers broad economic, social, and environmental benefits. The initiative will drive opportunities related to energy policy change, financing, business collaboration and economic growth. Stakeholders will benefit by taking action – because doing so will advance their core strategies and missions, their growth and innovation agendas, and their shared values.

- **Businesses will increase shareholder value.** They will gain by adopting industry best practices, reducing their costs and environmental impact, and creating new opportunities through networks established by this initiative. In a very practical way, businesses will benefit from more robust energy infrastructure in their areas of activity, reducing the risk of unreliable power supplies. They may gain access to new and expanded markets for existing products and improved market insights. They may be better placed to develop and adapt products and services to new sets of customers. They may establish or strengthen relationships with governments, policymakers and public institutions in home and foreign markets, thereby improving the public-private dialogue and realising new opportunities for growth, investment, and innovation. They may also improve their brand recognition by demonstrating global leadership on a targeted initiative in the area of sustainable energy and communicating their role in creating a new energy future. (The term 'businesses' in this document encompasses the entire private sector.)

- **Governments will strengthen social and economic development.** They will attract new international and domestic investments and new businesses, supporting sustainable economic growth and local value chains. They may also tap new sources of advice or technical support from the private sector and civil society, as well as from multilateral and donor agencies – for example, by opting in to a programme for technical assistance on energy access. The initiative thereby aims to empower developing countries to put their development on a sustainable pathway. For donor countries, participation will allow better focus and leverage for their aid efforts. (The term 'government' in this document encompasses the entire public sector.)

- **Civil society organisations (CSOs) will increase their impact.** They will be able to scale up their efforts on advocacy, research, training, education, or direct delivery of services. They may improve their access to key stakeholders, convened through the initiative, and thereby form constructive new partnerships. These new constellations and resources will increase the influence of CSOs, helping them thrive and spur similar efforts elsewhere. (The term 'civil society' in this document encompasses non-governmental organisations and academic institutions, as well as individuals.)

2.2 **Commitments can bring about transformational changes if stakeholders work together.** Progress toward sustainable energy for all is often obstructed by multiple, interlocking barriers; overcoming these barriers will require multiple, mutually reinforcing actions. The initiative aims to help organisations align their individual efforts towards common goals.

2.3 **Working together will bring important benefits**:

- **Coordination between different actors is needed to assemble all the necessary elements of success.** Without a stable policy environment with commercial opportunities, companies will not invest in R&D or deployment; without action by private companies or civil society organisations, national policy programmes will not achieve the desired scale and impact. Assembling one of these elements alone may have little impact without the others being present as well.

- **Leveraging the private sector's human and financial capital is essential, given the scale and breadth of the challenge.** The changes that are needed to implement transformative energy programs, particularly in countries that lack strong internal capacity, are generally beyond the investment and implementation abilities of governments. To bring about transformative change, public funds and public action must be leveraged with private capital and ingenuity. Private investment in turn depends on public policy to create a stable and predictable environment for profitable business development.

- **Optimising actions among stakeholders and across geographies will create synergies.** Energy infrastructure is highly complex and increasingly interconnected regionally. Coordinated actions may reduce overall costs and lead to better performance. For example, regions may partner on major supply-side investments and share common institutional capacity.

- **Lessons can be shared across initiatives and countries**. When efforts are focused on similar challenges, coordination allows lessons to be shared more quickly and with greater applicability to other countries and situations.

2.4 **The Sustainable Energy for All initiative therefore urges stakeholders to coordinate their efforts** – locally and nationally to ensure all required elements are addressed; regionally and globally to learn from and mobilise change elsewhere. Local coordination can take the form of commitment bundles that aggregate needed stakeholders into partnerships. Sustainable Energy for All will support this coordination in a set of high-impact areas. Section Three provides illustrative examples of such areas.

2.5 **All stakeholders can contribute in a way that plays to their own strengths and capabilities, whether in partnership or through individual commitments.** Different stakeholders will have different commitments to offer, just as different countries will require different solutions. The approach to Sustainable Energy for All will thus be tailored to specific local circumstances, while aiming for cross-cutting coordination and benefits. There will be opportunities to contribute nationally, regionally or globally. Table 1 illustrates how stakeholders across the public sector, private sector and civil society can make a difference, whether through regulation or institutions, technology or finance, implementation capacity or end-user demand.

Table 1: Stakeholders in the public sector, private sector, and civil society all have roles to play

Not exhaustive	**Public Sector**	**Private Sector**	**Civil Society**
Stakeholder group includes:	*Host and donor governments, public institutions, multilaterals*	*Businesses, banks, investors*	*NGOs, academia*
Policies, planning, regulation and institutions	Establish a supportive environment for investment Define requirements for products or firms Develop institutional capacity to implement policy change Adopt standards and targets across levels of government	Identify required changes in policies and regulation to spur investment Engage in advocacy to support change Provide technical input to regulators Develop relevant international standards	Identify and advocate policies that support the objectives of Sustainable Energy for All Develop networks to spread best practices Monitor policy performance and provide feedback
Technology innovation	Incentivise innovation Provide sufficient public support for early-stage R&D Identify and disseminate existing and new best practices	Invest in industrial R&D, training, and demonstration facilities Develop technology solutions	Build R&D and human capacity through universities and training centres
Finance	Deploy public funds to reduce risk and maximise commercial investments Support a variety of solutions through a portfolio approach Facilitate the engagement of local and global financial institutions	Develop expertise on sustainable energy businesses and innovative financial solutions Invest in sustainable energy solutions, and social and philanthropic projects	Develop community-based business models to deliver sustainable energy alternatives Mobilise philanthropic capital for social enterprise models Monitor government use of funds and commitments
Implementation capacity and end-user demand	Build public capacity Initiate pilot projects Stimulate end-user demand for sustainable energy technologies Monitor and provide transparent reporting of results	Apply objectives to core operations, products, services and own value chain Innovate and invest in delivery models	Train energy entrepreneurs Educate end users about benefits of sustainable energy Develop models for social innovation in the energy sector Monitor progress within focus areas and towards overall objectives

2.6 **Public sector stakeholders play a crucial role in implementation and in enabling action across society.** The core purpose is to stimulate commercially viable investment in sustainable energy, whether publicly or privately owned. **National governments** must create a national agenda with tailored targets, establish robust institutional and implementation frameworks, provide a stable policy environment to allow long-term planning and investment, encourage transparency, and shape markets with well-considered, transparent, and consistently applied incentives, standards, labels and other regulatory measures developed with stakeholder consultation. **Public institutions** can help create a supportive environment and provide implementation capacity. Additionally, public institutions can increase energy efficiency and renewable energy in their own operations and procurement practises, reducing early investment risks and setting examples for other end users and individual consumers to follow. **Donor governments and multilateral institutions** can mobilise resources, provide technical assistance and policy guidance, engage in knowledge and capacity building, share best implementation practices, and make direct financial investments. In developing plans and national

agendas, governments and multilateral institutions should ensure that both the private sector and civil society organisations are formally consulted through existing vehicles such as the UN Global Compact's Local Networks.

By way of illustration, public sector stakeholders could commit to:

- Develop and adopt a national strategy for urban and rural electrification and/or for promoting modern cooking equipment, and create an environment conducive to private investment in energy technology deployment, enabling productive uses that can boost economic growth.
- Construct the supporting infrastructure needed to scale up and deploy sustainable energy solutions by other parties.
- Require more efficient energy use by government agencies and adopt transparent, fact-based energy standards for public and private buildings.
- Implement utility reform to achieve reliable and sustainable service delivery, e.g., by improving management and financial operations, reducing energy losses, etc.
- Work to strengthen local financial institutions and support their increased engagement in energy access and clean energy projects.
- Help local energy services companies get established and grow in energy-poor regions and communities, supporting sustainable value-chain development.

2.7 **Private sector stakeholders can make a significant contribution toward achieving the Sustainable Energy for All objectives, both on their own and – more importantly – through partnerships.** As part of their core business functions, private sector entities can support sustainable energy throughout their value chain – demanding innovation from their suppliers, in their own operations, and from their partners. Firms can make direct investments in sustainable projects within their own operations, but they can also invest through social and philanthropic projects. This could include partnering with local businesses or governments to develop new capacity, new capabilities, or new markets. As advocates in the public policy arena, private interests should work with governments to identify regulatory policies that will help create a thriving market in sustainable energy. Banks and financial institutions in particular can help by developing financial models and instruments to reduce the risk associated with sustainable energy investments while also building the expertise to properly assess such projects. Additionally, energy technology companies can engage in pre-competitive partnerships to bring new technological solutions forward. The Global Compact's Framework for Business Action provides a template for further substantiating and structuring private sector commitments.

By way of illustration, private sector stakeholders could commit to:

- Develop and deploy business models that deliver and build value from sustainable energy solutions.
- Require their suppliers to measure, report, and reduce their energy consumption.
- Source an increasing share of their energy consumption from renewable sources.
- Develop new financing and market-based mechanisms that support energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- Participate in the development of energy efficiency standards that are appropriate for each country, industrial sector and product category but that are also ambitious in their reach.
- Establish supply chains and deployment models for delivering electrification and modern cooking facilities in selected developing countries.

2.8 **Civil society stakeholders** play an important role in effecting change. Some **civil society organisations** may be strongest at education and advocacy. They can encourage greater transparency among businesses and governments regarding energy use, procurement policies, or regulations that relate to Sustainable Energy for All. They can monitor all stakeholder actions and progress towards the overall objectives. Other organisations will be best placed to reach communities that are most in need of help, either through actual delivery models or through training and education, while still other organisations may focus on providing philanthropic finance where it is needed or on building capacity in governments or local communities. **Academic institutions** can play a role in supporting

targeted research and fostering innovative approaches to clean and sustainable energy; in addition, they are sources of competence and technical capacity that other stakeholders can leverage.

By way of illustration, civil society stakeholders could commit to:

- Implement pilot projects to test deployment models and solutions for off-grid renewable power or modern cooking facilities.
- Work with other organisations in and across countries to advocate for supportive policies and legislation, such as appliance and vehicle efficiency standards.
- Develop strategies for reaching communities without access to energy.
- Train entrepreneurs and help them develop effective business strategies.
- Support the strengthening of energy research institutions in developing countries.
- Undertake research and development aimed at adapting current solutions or creating new technologies suitable to the needs of developing countries.
- Advocate and educate consumers to change purchasing and energy use behaviour.

3. Sustainable Energy for All will mobilise, support and monitor commitments in a set of high-impact areas

3.1 **Sustainable Energy for All will mobilise and facilitate commitments and partnerships, and monitor progress** t**o encourage global action, coordination and best practice** (see Table 2). These activities will make use of the convening power of the Secretary-General, the High-level Group and the vision of Sustainable Energy for All. Recognising that other stakeholders are already engaged individually or in partnership toward similar objectives, Sustainable Energy for All will seek to promote and find synergies among existing initiatives, fostering coordination and scale up, while encouraging new commitments. Similarly, existing networks will be called upon to support these activities, including UN Resident Coordinators and UNDP, the World Bank and regional multilateral Banks, the UN Global Compact, and relevant global organisations and civil society groups. The High-level Group for its part will:

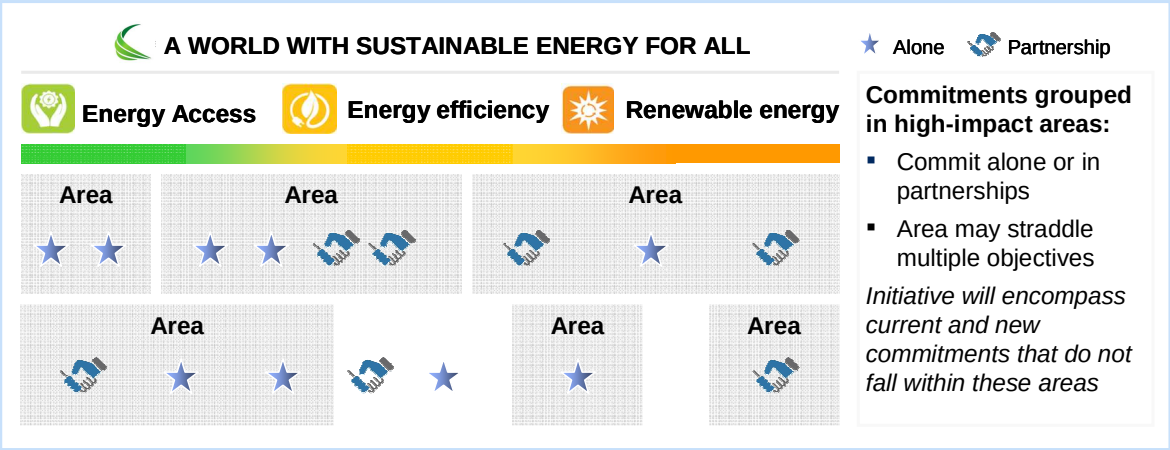
- **Mobilise commitments across a broad range of stakeholders**. This will include identifying priority areas for action, communicating the Action Agenda, and advocating the initiative's objectives in general. Individual members of the High-level Group will take the lead on specific high-impact areas and convene collaborative meetings by geography or sector.
- **Facilitate and support the design and implementation of coherent commitment bundles** and encourage multi-stakeholder collaboration to deliver truly transformational impacts. This will include fostering coordinated partnerships, finding individuals or organisations to fill particular gaps, facilitating access to financial resources, or developing, compiling and sharing best practices.
- **Oversee the monitoring of the initiative against its objectives through an accountability matrix and ensure the dissemination of lessons learned across stakeholders.** A transparent and informative process will be developed to keep track of commitments and their implementation by stakeholders (businesses, governments, civil society organisations) and to create a set of indicators to assess progress toward the interim milestones mentioned in Section One. For instance, an index of energy access, inspired by the UNDP's Human Development Index, could be used to monitor access to modern energy services.

Table 2: Three set of activities are needed to coordinate commitments

Mobilise	Facilitate and support	Monitor and disseminate
■ Identify priority areas ■ Communicate and advocate action ■ Lead efforts ■ Convene stakeholders	■ Foster partnerships and match commitments toward objectives ■ Share best practices in planning and implementation	■ Monitor, review and report progress ■ Promote dissemination of lessons learned

3.2 **In practice, this approach will focus on 'high-impact areas'** in which commitments to concrete action can be mobilised and organised, and progress measured by clear indicators. The three objectives of Sustainable Energy for All are broad and encompass many sectors of the economy; identifying areas of high-impact opportunities provides a way to organise commitments, whether they are individual commitments or coordinated partnerships, toward the three objectives. Coordination in high-impact areas will also help leverage lessons learned to stimulate further action. Members of the High-level Group will lead the way in key areas, which may be focused on one objective or cut across several.

Figure 4: Commitments will be organised in high-impact areas, also cutting across objectives



3.3 The overall initiative will eventually cover several high-impact areas and will include commitments by businesses, governments and civil society organisations. Task forces of the Secretary-General's High-level Group have identified a number of such opportunities (see below), which are further elaborated by the task forces. The high-impact areas will be described and assessed over the next few months, as the High-level Group develops a more detailed Action Agenda and builds on the work of its task forces and on successful existing programmes brought forward by other stakeholders. In this regard, the task force on the framework for business action, led by the Global Compact, will develop sector-specific guidance related to high-impact areas, identifying best practices for industry and policy steps that stakeholders can use to develop commitments on their own. Organisations are invited to suggest high-impact areas and best practices that would have a substantial impact on achieving the three objectives of Sustainable Energy for All.

3.4 Four illustrative high-impact areas are described below, based on a subset of opportunities identified by the High-level Group's task forces:

- Creating transformative national programmes for energy access.
- Strengthening innovation for bottom-up, distributed energy access.
- Promoting and sharing sustainable energy standards and policies across countries.
- Encouraging financial innovation for sustainable energy investment.

This list is not exhaustive or final, but is rather intended to illustrate potential high-impact areas. Other important cross-cutting elements have been developed by the task forces, covering areas such as sectoral initiatives to drive energy efficiency, technological innovation and capacity building, best-practice regulation and consolidated procurement, and encouraging global industry associations or cities partnerships to act as alliances for energy intensity improvements.

3.5 For each example, a short description is provided, with an action matrix of sector engagement tied to Table 1 in Section Two above. The brief examples show the principal actions in each quadrant only; a fuller description would include a role for all three sectors in most of the matrix. Elements that require substantial sectoral leadership are shaded green; Elements requiring major action, but to a lesser extent than green quadrants, are shaded yellow.

Illustrative high-impact area 1: **Creating transformative national programmes for energy access**

3.6 **Opportunity:** Coordinating public policy and private willingness to invest can catalyse transformative changes in how productive uses of energy are made available, and succeed in bringing modern energy services to all by 2030. To realise this opportunity, clear and ambitious national access strategies are needed in developing countries, with separate tracks for electrification and clean cooking and heating solutions, together with an inclusive process to ensure that sufficient finance and deployment capacity is available from national and donor governments, from the private sector and from civil society. This would be a country-led approach, where technology choice depends on local circumstances but with a preference for sustainable energy solutions where appropriate. Elements to assess in this high-impact are include:

- *Starting point*, required support depends on current needs and level of development.
- *Assistance packages*, potentially encompassing technical assistance on planning, policy and regulatory mechanisms, and including financing, strengthening of institutional and human capacity, and program implementation and monitoring.
- *Stakeholder commitments*. The initiative will convene and help mobilise commitments from different stakeholders.
- *Customised technology and design options*, taking into account the type and level of the country's energy resource endowments.
- *Replication potential*. The initiative will work with countries that come forward first, so that success in these countries may provide inspiration for others.

3.7 **Scale-up:** There are several examples of successful country-led electrification programmes whose design and approach can be replicated elsewhere. Brazil, China, South Africa and India have all run large-scale initiatives – achieving access rates of 98.3 per cent, 99.4 per cent, 75 per cent and 75 per cent, respectively, in 2009. Innovative international initiatives that could fall under this high-impact area include the Energy+ initiative led by the Norwegian government, the Clean Technology Fund, and the Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP) under the Climate Investment Funds.

Figure 5: Action matrix for Area 1

Coordination across groups	Public sector	Private sector	Civil society
Policies and institutions	++	+	+
Technological innovation		+	
Finance solutions	++	++	+
Implementation capacity	++	++	++

3.8 **Coordinated actions by stakeholders:**

- **National governments** must own and lead the development of national energy access plans. These plans should set out transparent long-term investment strategies, articulate strong and predictable policies, provide for supportive regulatory frameworks, and define shorter-term performance measures with robust indicators. Depending on the country, energy access plans could be combined with plans for renewable energy and energy efficiency to ensure their integration. **Joint participation** will be needed from sub-national governments, utilities, investors, international financial institutions, and donor agencies.
- **Development partners and donor countries** are needed to work alongside host countries and regional organisations. Targeted technical assistance on strategy, planning, resource mapping and capacity building are core actions in the preparation phase that these stakeholders can support.
- Matchmaking exercises will be needed to partner **small and micro enterprises** with established small or large national and international **technology and financial companies**, and also to forge alliances between national and international **utilities**.

- **Civil society organisations** (CSOs) can contribute to the long-range planning and policy design process and help strengthen public consultation, accountability and dialogue. They can lower the cost of deployment through capacity building, serve as vehicles for deployment themselves, and stimulate demand through education programmes.

Illustrative high-impact area 2: **Strengthening innovation for bottom-up, distributed energy access**

3.9 **Opportunity:** In many off-grid situations, small-scale sustainable energy solutions for productive uses of energy are not only affordable under the right business models, but cheaper than current sources of energy. This creates opportunities for local business development consistent with all the objectives of Sustainable Energy for All. There are numerous recent success stories involving innovation in energy access by small-scale businesses and CSOs. Replicating and scaling up successful community-based delivery models could have a significant impact, both as stand-alone efforts and as part of national efforts described in the previous example. CSOs and small-scale businesses can leverage local circumstances, micro-finance institutions and decentralised solutions to foster effective energy service delivery and productive energy technology applications, both for electricity, modern cooking and heating services, and a range of essential services, such as agro-processing.

3.10 **Scale-up:** One model of inspiration for small-scale businesses is E+Co, which has demonstrated success in realising new business models and creating a value chain for energy access solutions, focusing on investment in services and capital in small and growing clean energy businesses in developing countries, coupled with training and education. Lighting Africa similarly has enabled entrepreneurs to deploy innovative, low-cost and high-quality appliances for lighting and other applications in several African countries. Among community-based initiatives, the Barefoot College has shown an ability to reach underserved areas, empowering rural villagers to fabricate, install, repair and maintain solar lighting units. TERI's Lighting a Billion Lives programme also presents a significant bottom-up solution that can be scaled up. Similarly, the experiences of countries such as Nepal on innovative cooking and productive uses of micro-hydro power can be replicated.

3.11 **Coordinated actions by stakeholders:**

Figure 6: Action matrix for Area 2

Coordination across groups	Public sector	Private sector	Civil society
Policies and institutions	+		+
Technological innovation		+	
Finance solutions	++	++	++
Implementation capacity	+	++	++

- **Host governments** will need to stimulate and facilitate the creation and growth of small-scale businesses and CSOs and use them to deploy energy access solutions. It may be necessary to support the engagement of local financial institutions while also providing transparent and dependable subsidy regimes to support long-term business growth.

- **Development partners and donor countries** will need to work with host governments to develop tariff and subsidy systems that are targeted, that consider the ability of the poorest to pay for energy services, and that do not create perverse incentives or distort prices. Some might also provide seed financing to foster local business capacity and innovation and to fund community-based investments in regions where the poverty level precludes conventional payment for services, but where access to energy offers the promise of economic growth and the potential for greater revenue streams over time.

- **Equipment suppliers,** from manufacturers to distributors, will need to foster stronger links with small-scale businesses and CSOs to understand local consumption needs and cooperate on appropriate technologies and new deployment and finance models.

- **Small-scale businesses and CSOs** will need to drive action in this area, but must be enabled to do so more effectively. They can reach communities from the inside, leverage local markets and social dynamics, and tailor solutions to local needs. Some may even drive bottom-up technological innovation.

Illustrative high-impact area 3: **Promoting and sharing sustainable energy standards and policies across countries**

3.12 **Opportunity:** Simply sharing current best practices across all countries could radically affect energy efficiency: Adopting minimum standards for a wide range of currently available and cost-effective technologies could, by 2030, reduce projected global electricity consumption in buildings and industry by 14 per cent, avoiding roughly 1300 mid-size power plants. An internationally coordinated programme on energy efficiency could help harmonise levels for minimum standards and labels, best-practice policies and test procedures for appliances, transport technologies, buildings, and industry processes. With regard to renewable energy standards and policies, a similar programme could act as a centre for best practice and technical assistance. As many countries are looking to accelerate renewable energy development, much can be gained by learning from experiences and developments elsewhere – including experiences with feed-in tariffs, public auctions, and portfolio standards, and access to the grid.

3.13 **Scale-up:** There are several examples of successful standards to serve as models for replication: Mexico implemented its first minimum efficiency performance standards in 1995, reducing annual national electricity consumption by nine per cent by 2005. In China, performance standards and labelling have saved an estimated nine per cent of the cumulative consumption of residential electricity, from when they were introduced.[5] Brazil has also introduced mandatory minimum efficiency standards with success. Internationally, the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles, launched in 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, has had great success in eliminating use of lead as a transport fuel additive. A strong base for further coordination is provided by the Super-efficient Equipment and Appliances Deployment (SEAD) programme of the Clean Energy Ministerial, the work of the World Bank on public sector buildings and energy efficiency procurement practices, and relevant work by other organisations, such as the UN Industrial Development Organisation. For renewables, the International Renewable Energy Agency can further scale up policy and technical assistance, and Brazil already has programmes running to map and develop hydro resources sustainably, as well as initiatives on bio-energy and biofuels.

3.14 **Coordinated actions by stakeholders:**

- **Governments** should promote the development and introduction of energy efficiency standards, labels, and other mechanisms to provide consumers accurate, understandable information regarding product energy efficiency, while also sharing best practices on renewables policies and supportive instruments. Governments can also encourage technology innovation through investment policies, collaboration around prizes, procurement, and public investment in R&D. Public agencies will need additional capacity and authority (e.g., for testing and inspections).
- **Private companies** should work with governments to

Figure 7: Action matrix for Area 3

Coordination across groups	Public sector	Private sector	Civil society
Policies and institutions	++	+	++
Technological innovation		++	
Finance solutions	+	+	
Implementation capacity	++	++	++

[5] All cited in Michael McNeil, Virginie E Letschert and Stephane de la Ru du Can (2008): *Global Potential of Energy Efficiency Standards and Labeling Programs.* Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory Environmental Energy Technologies Division.

ensure realistic but ambitious standards and timetables for implementation.

- **Financial intermediaries** will need to develop robust valuation techniques to measure and integrate the financial benefits of energy savings into their financing investment models.
- **Civil society organisations** can advocate for strong appliance standards and regulation, and work with governments to educate consumers on the benefits of efficiency and renewables.

Illustrative high-impact area 4: **Encouraging financial innovation for sustainable energy investment**

3.15 **Opportunity:** Many countries seek to increase private investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy, often through a combination of incentive systems. A particularly important area for innovation and sharing of best practices involves the targeted use of public funds to leverage private capital in the most efficient (and preferably technology-neutral) manner. Innovative approaches such as partial risk sharing mechanisms, credit guarantees, and co-financing are particularly important in "de-risking" private investments. De-risking can apply through the entire development spectrum, from the initial design through construction, and is especially important for institutional investors. De-risking could also take a number of non-financial forms, ranging from advisory services to educating local lenders (both banks and institutional lenders), to establishing dedicated financial products, incentives and pools of capital, such as debt warehouse facilities, partial credit guarantees, or refinancing guarantees for projects.

3.16 **Scale-up:** GET FiT is one initiative by Deutsche Bank that initially focused on financing renewables deployment, now being developed into a business-driven instrument in collaboration with other partners such as the World Bank and KfW. A Global Fund for Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Investments has also been proposed to facilitate investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy by residential and commercial property owners. There are many countries (e.g. Brazil) which can offer valuable lessons on financing models that have been successfully applied and replicated on the ground.

3.17 **Coordinated actions by stakeholders:**

- **Governments** should work with the private sector, particularly investors and banks, to adapt and strengthen relevant policy instruments and incentives in order to reduce risk and encourage investments. Best practices should be shared across developed and developing countries.
- **International financial institutions** should provide financial and technical assistance and policy guidance in developing countries, and catalyze capital flows by developing new instruments specifically designed to de-risk business investments in clean energy solutions.

Figure 8: Action matrix for Area 4

Coordination across groups	Public sector	Private sector	Civil society
Policies and institutions	++	+	
Technological innovation			
Finance solutions	++	++	
Implementation capacity		+	

- **Private sector banks** should be equal participants, developing new approaches and expertise in renewable and energy efficiency finance and business models. Businesses should establish and maintain dialogues with governments to support innovative finance regimes and provide technical assistance where appropriate. Developers and infrastructure providers can help by communicating information about cost curves, business case performance, and project certainty.

4. All parties are invited to join Sustainable Energy for All with commitments to act

4.1 **The Secretary-General's vision of Sustainable Energy for All has united leaders from around the world**, from government, business, finance, and civil society, who seek to achieve more together than they can alone. By the end of 2012, we hope to look back on a year that has seen this alliance grow and deepen; that has seen ambitious commitments made and kept; and that has seen the world draw closer to achieving the grand ambition that the Secretary-General has set before us and that our consciences demand: *a world with sustainable energy for all.*

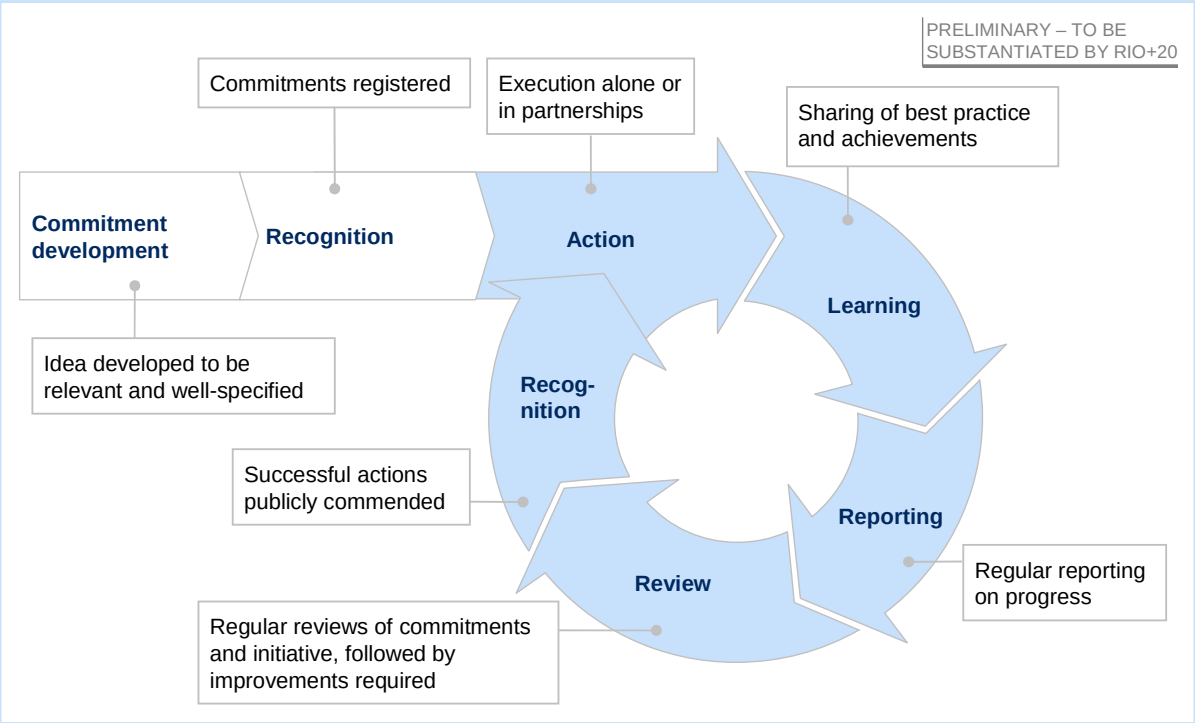
4.2 **The High-level Group will elaborate the elements of the initiative ahead of Rio+20, and invites all parties to join with commitments to act.** Between now and the Rio conference, the Group will further develop its guiding principles, commitment and opt-in processes, and primary activities. The following paragraphs should be seen therefore as a starting point.

4.3 **The High-level Group proposes guiding principles that should govern the initiative and that all participating stakeholders should embrace**:

- **Full inclusion of all parties**. All types of organisations can make a contribution, recognising that each has its own strengths and different abilities to leverage. All countries can make a difference in achieving Sustainable Energy for All.
- **Collaboration to catalyse action** in local or global partnerships, bringing together all required elements to enable change, and scaling up existing successful initiatives.
- **Transparency by all stakeholders** on commitments made, implementation, and progress achieved toward the initiative's three objectives for 2030.
- **Development of positive feedback loops** by pursuing commitments that will encourage others to commit or unlock action by a wider range of stakeholders.
- **Dissemination and showcasing of best practices** to accelerate progress across all commitments and ensure that organisations receive the credit they deserve.
- **Acceptance of a diversity of approaches**, such that participants can choose from a broad range of technical solutions and energy sources depending on local circumstances, supporting the use of renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies wherever feasible.

4.4 **The High-level Group foresees a simple process to opt in and join the initiative, with entry steps for developing a suitable commitment, followed by a cycle of action, learning, reporting, review and recognition** (see the potential process flow illustrated in Figure 9, to be further developed by the initiative). All commitments are expected to further the objectives of Sustainable Energy for All. This means that commitments should be (a) **relevant**, in the sense of contributing to the initiative's objectives; (b) **well-specified** – that is, both measurable and time-bound; and (c) **in accord with the initiative's guiding principles**, including its principles of transparency and accountability. The Secretary-General will make particular note in public appearances of commitments to action that move significantly beyond what would have been achieved without the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Participants that already have made progress toward any of the three objectives will be recognised for their early action and for leading by example.

Figure 9: Potential process flow, where commitments are developed, recognised, enacted, reviewed, and disseminated



4.5 **The High-level Group will continue activities to build momentum for the initiative and set it on an early path to success.** These activities include:

- **Elaborating an Action Agenda**, based on this framework document, that clearly identifies the high-impact areas of the initiative and commitment opportunities for all stakeholders.
- **Mobilising a strong set of commitments** through peer-to-peer networks, even as the initiative's approach is refined.
- **Developing an Accountability Framework** for the cycle of stakeholder commitments and for the long-term monitoring of progress towards the objectives.
- **Developing suitable operational arrangements,** using existing institutions and High-level Group members, to strengthen the commitment process and provide tools for the initiative to accomplish its three main objectives between now and 2030.

4.6 **Ahead of Rio+20, the High-level Group will encourage early commitments by stakeholders to build traction within each high-impact area.** The High-level Group will reach out to countries, businesses, and organisations that are dedicated to leading by example, with the aim of building on existing efforts to foster new and scaled-up commitments by major stakeholders. These commitments can serve as examples and inspire others to follow. By the time of Rio+20, the Action Agenda will be launched, not as the culmination of this process, but as the start of a sustained multi-year mission to realise the three objectives of *Sustainable Energy for All.* Only by working together can this destination be reached.