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NEWS RELEASE

World Bank Scores Sustainable Energy Policies in 111 Countries

WASHINGTON, February 15, 2017 – An increasing number of developing countries – Mexico, China, Turkey, India, Vietnam, Brazil, and South Africa – are emerging as leaders in sustainable energy, with robust policies to support energy access, renewables and energy efficiency, according to a new World Bank Report.

But there is huge room for improvement across every region in the world and particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, says the report, entitled [RISE \(Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy\)](#).

RISE is the first global policy scorecard of its kind, grading 111 countries in three areas: energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy. The report is aimed at helping governments assess if they have a policy and regulatory framework in place to drive progress on sustainable energy and pinpoints where more can be done to attract private investments. RISE also enables countries to measure their performance against others, and will allow them to track progress over time.

“RISE will be an invaluable tool for policymakers, helping them to identify and bolster policies and regulations that spur the kind of investments needed to extend access to modern, affordable and reliable energy for all,” said **Riccardo Puliti, Senior Director and Head of Energy and Extractives at the World Bank.**

The report was produced as a contribution to [Sustainable Energy for All](#). **Rachel Kyte, CEO and Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General on Sustainable Energy for All**, said: *“The world is in a race to secure a clean energy transition - one that will deliver energy services for everyone, create jobs, ensure health care and education, and allow economies to grow. Increased use of renewable energy is a key element in that transition.”*

She added: *“RISE offers policymakers and investors the most detailed country-level insight yet into how we can level the playing field for renewable energy worldwide. Smart policy can accelerate this transition.”*

While many of the countries surveyed in RISE have embraced the sustainable energy agenda, the report identifies important policy gaps across all regions, and highlights opportunities for rapid progress. Sub-Saharan Africa is the world’s least electrified continent, where 600 million people still live without electricity. As many as 40 percent of Sub-Saharan African countries surveyed by RISE have barely taken any of the policy measures needed to accelerate energy access, compared to less than 10 percent of Asian countries. Exceptions include Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda which have strong policy frameworks.

RISE assesses where additional efforts are most needed – both developed and developing countries need to pull their weight. Among the top 10 high-impact countries for renewable energy and energy efficiency, all

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have relatively robust policy frameworks in place. The same cannot be said for the top 10 high-impact countries for access – both Nigeria and Ethiopia still need to make much progress in policies and regulations. The report notes that in order to improve electricity access, there must be a better balance between making power both affordable for customers without undermining the financial viability of the utilities that need to invest to provide service.

With the plummeting costs of solar panels, there is now an opportunity to bring electricity to customers beyond the reach of utility networks. But many countries, have done little to create a regulatory environment favorable to accelerate the diffusion of solar home systems.

The report highlights that, in many countries, policymakers are not paying nearly as much attention to energy efficiency as to renewable energy, particularly in the developing world. Energy efficiency measures are usually the most cost-effective way of greening the energy sector. Examples like Vietnam that prioritized energy efficiency in its sector planning in response to high demand growth in the 1990s, show how much progress can be made in this area. Yet the majority of countries still need to adopt basic regulatory measures like appliance labeling, building codes, and equipment performance standards.

RISE finds that measures to promote renewable energy – such as targets, incentives and institutions – are widespread. The challenge is no longer how to build renewable power plants, but how to ensure that growing renewable capacity can be fully integrated into the power system and used to generate electricity.

The data is freely available on [an online platform](#) that enables users to customize the information they need on each country's power sector and policy framework. The report has 27 indicators and 80 sub-indicators and examines over 3,000 laws, regulations and policy documents

While RISE serves as a global energy policy scorecard, an upcoming, complementary World Bank report – Global Tracking Framework – will track how countries are performing on sustainable energy goals. The Framework will be released at the [Sustainable Energy for All Forum](#) from April 3-5, 2017.

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