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## HIGHLIGHTS AND OUTCOMES FROM THE SEforALL VIRTUAL YOUTH SUMMIT



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report was written by the Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Youth Summit Planning Taskforce, including Ugo Nwadiani, Maame Boateng, Meriam Otarra, Eduarda Zoghbi, Anant Wadhwa, in partnership with Ore Ogunbiyi, Folahan Oworu, Hannah Chi and Jessica Borbee from the Clean Cooking Alliance, and Karine Makhijani Malagon and Victoria Ibrahim from EM-ONE Energy Solutions.

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# INTRODUCTION

With less than 10 years for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved, action is needed now. 2021 is a critical year for the energy and climate agenda. The SEforALL Youth Summit, sponsored by EM-ONE Energy Solutions and the Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA), was held from 9-11 February to bring youth to the table ahead of critical upcoming global dialogues – such as the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy and UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) – and inspire active participation in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) by 2030 and the Paris Agreement by 2050.

#### EDUCATE, CONNECT, INSPIRE

The core objectives of the SEforALL Youth Summit were to educate youth on the scope and importance of SDG7 for global development; connect youth across the globe to networks, academic and career opportunities in the energy sector; and inspire youth to actively participate in achieving SDG7 during the Decade of Action. These objectives translated into agenda items (more details in the next chapter) that were hosted live by Master of Ceremony, Nelufar Hedayat, on a digital platform across three days from 9-11 February 2021. The platform remains accessible via this link until the end of 2021, with recordings of the live Summit sessions and resources from participating organizations/institutions available on demand.



# Summit achieves true global reach

The SEforALL Youth Summit achieved true global status with 2,343 registered participants from 134 countries and near equal representation across the global north (54%) and south (46%). There was also balanced gender representation across male (54%), female (43%) and non-binary (0.4%), with ~2% choosing not to disclose. Of all 2,343 registered participants, 1,814 logged on to the Summit platform at least once, with 991 different participants viewing the main live events.

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The Summit platform can be accessed by all registered participants until the end of 2021. Visit <u>here</u>.

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\*\* The impact has to do with how many times the hashtag could have been seen by Twitter users. The reach refers to how many Twitter users could have seen the hashtag.



### High-level and youth leaders engage in forward thinking dialogues

Young people will have a critical role to play. We have all been inspired by the leadership of youth, coming together in solidarity and compassion to demand intergenerational justice and bolder action on the climate emergency.

> UN Deputy Secretary-General H.E. Amina J. Mohammed



The Summit featured an array of youth and highlevel speakers exchanging perspectives on critical paths forward.

Opening remarks on day one were provided by UN Deputy Secretary-General H.E. Amina J. Mohammed, who called on youth to "actively shape the milestone UN events in 2021 to help us achieve the future we want." The Energy Dialogue featured exchanges between Damilola Ogunbiyi, the CEO and Special Representative to the UN Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All, and youth speakers on recovering better with sustainable energy and achieving net-zero by 2050. The youth speakers included Forbes 30 Under 30 Renewable Energy Activist, Ana Sophia Mifsud, Climate Activist and UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Young Leader, Vanessa Nakate, and Columbia University MPA Student, Wenhao Sun, with Time Magazine senior correspondent Justin Worland moderating the discussion.

During the Energy Dialogue, the audience participated in a live interactive poll, with participants calling on SEforALL to enable youth to access policy discussions and provide toolkits to empower youth with knowledge and skills. The Summit also featured four 7-minute fireside chats between pairs of high-level and youth speakers, including H.E. Volkan Bozkır, President of the 75th UN General Assembly, and Anunya Bahanda, Youth Activist from Fossil Free Penn; Francesco Starace, Enel Group CEO and General Manager and SEforALL Administrative Board Chair, and Dr. Chelsea Tucker, L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awardee Waste to Fuel; Kitty van der Heijden, Director-General of the International Cooperation at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands, and Chebet Lesan, Founder of BrightGreen Renewable Energy and Winner of Africa's Business Heroes Award 2020; Dr. Kevin Kariuki, Vice President for Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth, The African Development Bank Group, and Chiagozie Udeh, SDG7 Youth Constituency Global Focal Point.

The Summit agenda also featured remarks from EM-ONE Energy Solutions CEO, Mir Islam, and an interview with CCA CEO Dymphna van der Lans by Deirdre de Leeuw den Bouter and Leah Carrier, youth advocates from Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, D.C.

As industry veterans and experts [in the sustainable energy sector], it is our role to share our knowledge and amplify the voice of these inspiring youth in the energy transition by making room and giving them a seat at the table.

Mir Islam, EM-ONE Energy Solutions CEO



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Big as the challenge is, I see the silver lining: massive opportunities for innovation, new jobs, for young people. 14M jobs are going to be created in this #energytransition. This is where the future is and this is where the future should be.

Kitty van der Heijden, Director-General of the International Cooperation at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands



## Youth outline path for participation in the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy in September and Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November

Participation, representation, action. These were the final recommendations of the youth leaders who participated at the SDG7 Youth Roundtable chaired by the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake. The session featured young climate and energy activists discussing the role of youth in the build up to the UN High-Level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE), COP26 and beyond. Youth Speakers included Nisreen Elsaim, Chair of the UN's Youth Advisory Group, Evelyn Addor, Focal Point for Energy Access for the Strategic Youth Network for Development, Beniamin Strzelecki, Global Focal Point for the SDG7 Youth Constituency, and Vishal Prasad, a campaigner from Fiji from the Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change group.

Both conversations were preceded by presentations from programme leads Kanika Chawla for the HLDE and Anum Ahmed for the COP26 Youth Engagement team.

On the HLDE, the youth speakers called for youth to be directly engaged in the Dialogue via two-way communication and to be solicited to provide input in all documentation. Accessibility and inclusion were also stressed, with the request that any engagement avenues for youth be designed to be accessible to all youth, regardless of their location, socio-economic background and physical ability. The audience also participated in a live poll, with the majority calling for Youth Delegates to be made part of each country's delegation to the HLDE.

On COP26, we asked youth, "What role can young people play in advancing the global transition to clean power?" to which the poll results showed that youth should educate themselves and others about the socio-economic benefits of a clean energy transition.



# Troubleshooting for SDG7 finalists go head-to-head, winner announced

SEforALL launched a call for proposals in December 2020 ahead of the Summit, asking youth globally to submit proposals on interventions that contributed to any of the three pillars of SDG7 (access, transition, efficiency), with special consideration for those impacting cold chains for potential vaccine distribution.

A total of 133 proposals were received from 42 countries and were reviewed by a 15-member taskforce to score proposals and shortlist three finalists for the live event. The review taskforce included representatives from SEforALL, EM-ONE Energy, CCA, SDG7 Youth Constituency and Student Energy.

The three shortlisted finalists with the highest scores (and their SDG7 interventions) included:

 Adekoyejo Kuye, Uzochukwu Mbamalu, Charles Aliozo and Chigozie Enemoh (team submission) from Nigeria (Solar powered cold storage using one compressor for multiple applications (Precooling, cold storage and charging a cold thermal storage) and providing refrigeration as a service. Target is small holder farmers for food cool chains, with possibility to extend to vaccine cold chains)

- Xiangkun (Elvis) Cao from China (Building C2X – which utilizes solar energy to convert CO2 emissions into useful products such as ethanol, which is a renewable fuel and can be used for producing hand sanitizer)
- Triomphant Tchulang from Cameroon (Solar refrigerator that integrates both photovoltaic and thermal energy, allowing it to operate 24 hours a day without the use of batteries for storage, at the desired temperature of food, pharmaceuticals, and especially sensitive vaccines).

The Nigerian team emerged as winners following a second round of reviews by judges at the live event, winning the USD 2,500 cash prize. All three finalists will be profiled in SEforALL communications and activities and be engaged in the High-Level Dialogue on Energy process to bring youth innovation to the table.



If youth don't care and act to bring about SDG7, we will be the ones to bear the negative impacts in the near future. We have what it takes to bring about change all we have to do is take action. Adekoyejo Kuye, Uzochukwu Mbamalu, Charles

Aliozo and Chigozie Enemoh



## Florence School of Regulation (FSR) announces 10 scholarships, joins 17 other institutions and organizations in virtual fairs

The Summit featured two virtual fairs: an academic fair and a career advisory fair to connect participants to academic and career opportunities globally. Participating academic institutions included the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) at Columbia University, Florence School of Regulation, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Indian Institute of Science, National University of Lesotho, Fundação Getulio Vargas and Manipal Academy of Higher Education.

Participating organizations included the ASEAN Centre for Energy, Energy Efficiency Services Limited, Enel S.p.A,

Camco Clean Energy, Sustainable Energy for All, CCA, Energy Self Portraits, YES Europe, KfW Development Bank GmbH and The World Meteorological Organization.

The Florence School of Regulation took the opportunity to announce the 10 scholarships it had made available to global youth, while the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, India, highlighted its available scholarships for female applicants to promote women empowerment in India. Several organizations also unveiled upcoming global internships and job opportunities, while Energy Self Portraits showcased the first International Self Portraits contest linked to the topic of Energy with special emphasis on related SDGs, where 15 winners will receive USD 100 and one overall winner will receive a USD 500 cash prize. The World Meteorological Organization's presentation with graphics and videos captured the audience's attention and made them aware of the urgent work we need to do in the coming years if we are to reach the SDGs goals on time. The ASEAN Centre of Energy published an independent report on the SEforALL Youth Summit 2021, which is available here.



## Youth experts from across the globe engage participants in TEDx-style thematic breakout sessions

A key objective of the Youth Summit was to educate young people on the different aspects of SDG7. To facilitate peer-learning, a set of five "Ask a Youth Expert" masterclasses were curated for participants to engage with young energy practitioners on:



Women Breaking the Glass Ceiling in the Energy Sector featuring Victoria Ibrahim, Project Associate at EM-ONE Energy Solutions, and Bárbara Rubim, Vice-President of the Brazilian Association of Solar Energy (ABSOLAR), and moderated by Hannah Girardeau, Energy Specialist at SEforALL.



**Powering Industrialization in the Global South through Clean Energy** featuring Claudia Schwartz, Energy Access Adviser at Power Africa, and Xiaodan Huang, Ph.D. candidate at Tsinghua University, and moderated by Ore Ogunbiyi, Author and Special Assistant to the Vice-President of Nigeria.



Young Energy Innovators Disrupting the Energy Access Supply Chain featuring Karine Makhijani Malagon, Manager at EM-ONE Energy Solutions, and Sebastian Groh, Managing Director at SOLshare, and moderated by Eduarda Zoghbi, Energy and Gender Consultant at SEforALL.



**Fueling Action on Clean Cooking** featuring Isaac Maweu, Project Associate at I Choose Life, Charlot Magayi, CEO of Mukuru Clean Stoves, and Jessica Borbee, Associate at CCA, and moderated by Hannah Chi, Senior Associate at CCA.



**AI, Data, and the Future of Electrification** featuring Tobias Engelmeier, Founder at TFE Energy GmbH and Village Data Analytics, and Axell Sutton, Founder at Climate Influencers, and moderated by Tamojit Chatterjee, Energy Specialist at SEforALL. Discussions with the audience in each group varied between technical energy solutions and stories of success. One highlight from the sessions featured EM-ONE engineers sharing their videos for others to see the three female energy professionals working together while watching the Summit. A clear demonstration that our mission was accomplished!

## SDG Young Leader AY Young announced as Call-to-Action Youth Champion and performs live at Summit

During the platform launch ahead of the Summit, UN SDG Young Leader, AY Young, performed his single 'Save the Planet' to close out the live event on day three.

AY was one of seventeen young global leaders unveiled by the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in 2020 for his contributions to the SDGs. He is a producer, singer, songwriter, entertainer, and entrepreneur. He founded the innovative Battery Tour, which hosts a series of live concerts that are fully powered by renewable energy and is currently working on 'The Global Goals Project' - an album of 17 tracks with one track per SDG.





Learn more about AY Young's Battery Tour <u>here</u>.



My story is for the people, powered by the people and success with the people. I aim to use The Battery Tour and music — a universal language — as a way to get the world plugged-in to more sustainable solutions and start thinking of new ways to innovate for the future.

AY Young, Artist and UN Young Leader for the SDG

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