

# MOBILIZING ENERGY ACTION

The High-level Dialogue on  
Energy and its Impacts

24 September 2021



**United  
Nations**



HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON  
**ENERGY**  
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 2021



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## INTRODUCTION

On 24 September 2021, more than 130 global leaders, including Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Executive Heads of UN entities and international organizations, CEOs and other multi-stakeholder representatives, joined the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE), announcing ambitious targets, transformational actions and bold investments towards achieving universal energy access and net-zero emissions.

The first leader-level meeting on energy under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in 40 years, the Dialogue aimed to boost efforts to provide energy access by 2030 to the nearly 760 million people who live without electricity and the 2.6 billion people who lack access to clean cooking solutions, while setting the world on a trajectory towards net-zero emissions by 2050.

One of the main outcomes of the Dialogue was the first-ever global roadmap for accelerating achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) – affordable, sustainable, reliable and modern energy for all. The roadmap presents a clear strategy for achieving universal energy access and accelerated energy transition by 2030, including a set of concrete and practical milestones.

In support of these objectives, more than USD 400 billion in new finance and investment was committed by governments and the private sector in the form of Energy Compacts announced during the Dialogue and multi-stakeholder Energy Action pre-events on 22 and 23 September. The commitments aim to provide hundreds of millions of people with clean energy access and speed up energy transition, while creating green jobs to leave no one behind.

While the commitments announced were a significant step forward, participants acknowledged that far more is needed to address energy poverty and the decarbonization of energy systems.

## BACKGROUND

The UN General Assembly, through resolution 74/225, invited the UN Secretary-General, with the support of the relevant UN system entities, to convene a High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE) to promote the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to raise ambition and accelerate action towards the achievement of SDG7 energy targets.

The Secretary-General designated Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, to serve as HLDE Secretary-General, and UN-Energy Co-Chairs — Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and CEO for Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) — to serve as Dialogue Co-Chairs.

In preparation for the HLDE, a broad and inclusive consultative process yielded key inputs for the Dialogue. This process was structured around five themes: energy access; energy transition; enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions; innovation, technology and data; and finance and investment.

By engaging as Global Theme Champions, 30 Member States took the initiative and spearheaded advocacy efforts on one or more of these themes. Five Technical Working Groups composed of more than 160 multi-stakeholder experts and co-led by 16 UN agencies and other relevant international organizations were established to provide the substantive groundwork for the Dialogue. Their work resulted in five Theme Reports, including sets of key policy recommendations that served as technical inputs for the HLDE.

Ministerial Thematic Forums were held virtually from 21 to 25 June 2021, bringing together about 1,500 participants, including over 50 Ministers from national governments and leaders from local governments, business, civil society and youth organizations. The Forums provided participants with an opportunity to discuss the inputs for the HLDE, including the Theme Reports, and to showcase solutions and partnerships. A summary of the Ministerial Thematic Forums was compiled as input for the Dialogue.

Moreover, to mobilize and support the development of these voluntary commitments, 48 Energy Compact Workshops were held in the run-up to the HLDE. Some workshops aimed to reach a broad audience, while others targeted one or more specific stakeholder groups, including individual Member States, local governments, businesses and youth.

# HLDE CHAMPIONS AND LEADS

THEME	GLOBAL THEME CHAMPIONS	CO-LEADS ORGANIZATIONS OF TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS
<b>Energy Access</b>	CHINA       KENYA       RUSSIAN FEDERATION EUROPEAN UNION       MALAWI       SAUDI ARABIA JAPAN       NETHERLANDS	UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME UN OFFICE OF THE HIGH REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES THE WORLD BANK
<b>Energy Transition</b>	BRAZIL       DENMARK       NIGERIA       UNITED KINGDOM CHILE       GERMANY       POLAND COLOMBIA       INDIA       SPAIN	INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
<b>Enabling SDGs through Inclusive, Just, Energy Transitions</b>	EUROPEAN UNION       NAURU       UNITED ARAB EMIRATES HONDURAS       PANAMA ICELAND       PORTUGAL	UN DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR WESTERN ASIA WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
<b>Innovation, Technology and Data</b>	FINLAND       MOROCCO MAURITIUS       RUSSIAN FEDERATION	FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UN UN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME UN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
<b>Finance and Investment</b>	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC       PAKISTAN ITALY       SAUDI ARABIA NETHERLANDS	EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

## ENERGY COMPACTS



## A SIGNAL OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE

During the HLDE, more than 130 global leaders, including Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Executive Heads of UN entities and international organizations, CEOs and other multi-stakeholder representatives, shared their views on subjects such as accelerating action to achieve universal energy access and net-zero emissions; ensuring just and inclusive energy transitions to leave no one behind; catalyzing finance and investment; and scaling up action through Energy Compacts. Their interventions included announcements of ambitious targets, transformational actions and bold investments towards achieving universal energy access and net-zero emissions. In demonstrating their commitment to action at the HLDE, world leaders gave, in the words of UN Secretary-General António Guterres, "a real signal of what is possible".

In his address to the HLDE, **Secretary-General António Guterres** said, "We have a double imperative – to end energy poverty and to limit climate change. And we have an answer that will fulfil both imperatives. Affordable, renewable and sustainable energy for all."

**UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed** noted, "Success is going to depend on how we tackle two key challenges. First, the 760 million people around the world who do not have access to electricity, and the 2.6 billion people that lack access to clean cooking solutions. Second, without decarbonization of our energy systems, we will not reach the 1.5 degree goal of the Paris Agreement."

**ANTÓNIO GUTERRES**  
UN Secretary-General



**AMINA MOHAMMED**  
UN Deputy Secretary-General

**UNDP Administrator and HLDE Co-Chair Achim Steiner** said, "It is no longer a question of 'economy versus environment or health versus economy'. This is an energy revolution in the making. Let's make sure it's fair, just, inclusive". In his closing remarks he said, "Aligning just 1 percent of the roughly 400 trillion dollars of total assets that are held today by banks, institutional investors [and] asset managers could be enough to fill the annual #SDGs financing gap – just one percent."

**HLDE Co-Chair Damilola Ogunbiyi** said, "Not having electricity or clean cooking options can mean the difference between life and death. Up to 4 million people die annually from energy poverty and two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions come from energy".

**HLDE Secretary-General Liu Zhenmin** said, "The Dialogue is not just a conference, it is the start of a new phase. UN-Energy will continue to support mobilization of more Energy Compacts in the years to come."

**LIU ZHENMIN**  
Under-Secretary-General for the  
United Nations Department of  
Economic and Social Affairs and  
HLDE Secretary-General



**ACHIM STEINER**  
Administrator for UNDP  
and Co-Chair of UN-Energy



**DAMILOLA OGUNBIYI**  
CEO and Special Representative of the  
UN Secretary-General for Sustainable  
Energy for All and Co-Chair of UN-Energy



# OUTCOMES

## A Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action

One of the main outcomes of the HLDE was the first-ever global roadmap for accelerated SDG7 action in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement. Importantly, the roadmap contains a number of milestones to be achieved by 2025 and 2030 regarding universal energy access and energy transition. It provides an invaluable guide for collective action on energy across sectors that transcends individual and piecemeal approaches and delivers a scaled-up and broad impact.

## Mobilizing Action through Energy Compacts

Over 160 Energy Compacts were announced in connection with the HLDE by governments and other stakeholders such as businesses and civil society organizations. These voluntary commitments include more than USD 400 billion in new finance and investment. Their successful implementation would lead to universal access to electricity and hundreds of millions of people gaining access to clean cooking. Moreover, the commitments promise the development of several hundred gigawatts of additional clean energy capacity and also entail several terawatts of energy savings. Importantly, they also include commitments on millions of decent new jobs, electric vehicles, installation of charging stations and other cross-sectoral benefits. In addition to mobilizing voluntary commitments, the Energy Compacts encourage countries to outline the detailed set of energy actions that they have planned to meet their targets and provide an avenue to build partnerships and resources.

## Financing SDG7

Clean energy funding saw over USD 400 billion in commitments for access and transition from the public and private sectors and partnerships including foundations and industry associations. Some of the big climate finance announcements came from both Member States and the philanthropic

sector. The EU committed to stepping up global engagement to make energy poverty history by the end of this decade by spending an additional EUR 4 billion on climate finance. The Netherlands announced that it was opening the second call for proposals for the SDG7 Project Facility Fund. Norway committed to investing USD 1.5 billion in a new climate investment fund over the next five years. The UAE announced that it would invest USD 1 billion globally in renewable energy. President Biden committed to doubling the amount of climate finance previously committed by the US, bringing US climate finance commitments to USD 11.4 billion by 2024. The Rockefeller Foundation and IKEA Foundation announced a USD 1 billion global platform to scale energy access for 1 billion people; this represents the largest one-time commitment the former has made.

## Compacts by Region



# FIVE THEMATIC REPORTS SET OUT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACCELERATED SDG7 ACTION

At the Ministerial Thematic Forums, five reports were launched that had been prepared by Technical Working Groups, presenting detailed recommendations for actions needed across the five themes of the Dialogue: energy access; energy transition; enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions; innovation, technology and data; and finance and investment.

The reports offer a clearly defined global path forward: the need for a bold, radical, system-wide shift in the way we think about energy. The recommendations from the reports highlight the need to align energy access policies and investments with energy transition pathways and leverage synergies between electrification and clean cooking efforts to achieve a just transition. A people-centred transition should also be a key focus to drive the sustainable development agenda and ensure no one is left behind. Creating regional markets can lower costs due to economies of scale and allow for quicker integration of renewables, while investments in physical infrastructure, data and digitization can improve efficiencies and make projects more attractive to investors. Promoting such a systems-wide approach can enable transformational change in the energy transition to achieve the SDGs, ensuring that energy transition pathways are sustainably designed and implemented to enhance synergies and reduce trade-offs with other SDGs.



Finally, finance is key to achieving the SDGs. Public finance delivery for the SDGs should be accelerated and blended finance schemes should be used to mobilize and maximize private capital for clean energy investments and innovative energy technologies. Local currency funding should be enhanced to strengthen domestic capital markets and market-distorting subsidies should be corrected. The lack of carbon-pricing frameworks should also be addressed to adequately account for environmental externalities that inhibit sustainable investments.



To download the full reports, please visit: [Theme Reports | United Nations](#)

# ENERGY COMPACTS AT A GLANCE

Highlights from the more than 160 Energy Compacts submitted to date include the following:

- **National Energy Compacts** from governments including Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Ethiopia, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Malawi, Nauru, Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Sierra Leone, Portugal, UAE, UK, US and Zambia.
- **No new coal:** Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Montenegro, Sri Lanka and UK committed to ceasing new permits (immediately) and new construction (end of 2021) for unabated coal.
- **Green hydrogen:** 29 Compacts were submitted from across sectors totalling 268 GW of new renewable energy capacity and 129 GW of new electrolyzer capacity by 2030, to effect more than 25 million tonnes of green hydrogen.
- **Clean cooking:** The government of the Netherlands and a coalition of 25+ businesses, NGOs and foundations committed to support access to clean cooking for 45 million people, access to electricity based on renewable energy for 100 million people, and a doubling of job opportunities in the energy transition for women and youth, all by 2030.
- **Enel** committed to reach 5.6 million new electricity connections by 2030, speed up its coal phase-out to 2027, triple renewable energy generation to 145 GW by 2030 and provide more than 4 million electric vehicle charging points and 10,000 electric buses by 2030.
- **The Rockefeller Foundation**, in partnership with the **IKEA Foundation**, committed USD 1 billion in philanthropic capital to scale the distributed renewable energy sector in support of ending energy poverty and combatting the climate crisis.
- The **Health Facility Electrification Compact** committed to provide 25,000 health facilities with sustainable access to a clean and reliable power source by 2025. Partners include Denmark, GAVI, IRENA, SEforALL, SELCO Foundation, Shell Foundation, UNDP, UNICEF and USAID/Power Africa.
- The **24/7 Carbon Free Energy Compact**, led by **Google** in partnership with a group of energy buyers and suppliers including Ørsted, X and EDP, committed to work towards transforming global electricity grids to 'absolute zero' or full decarbonization.



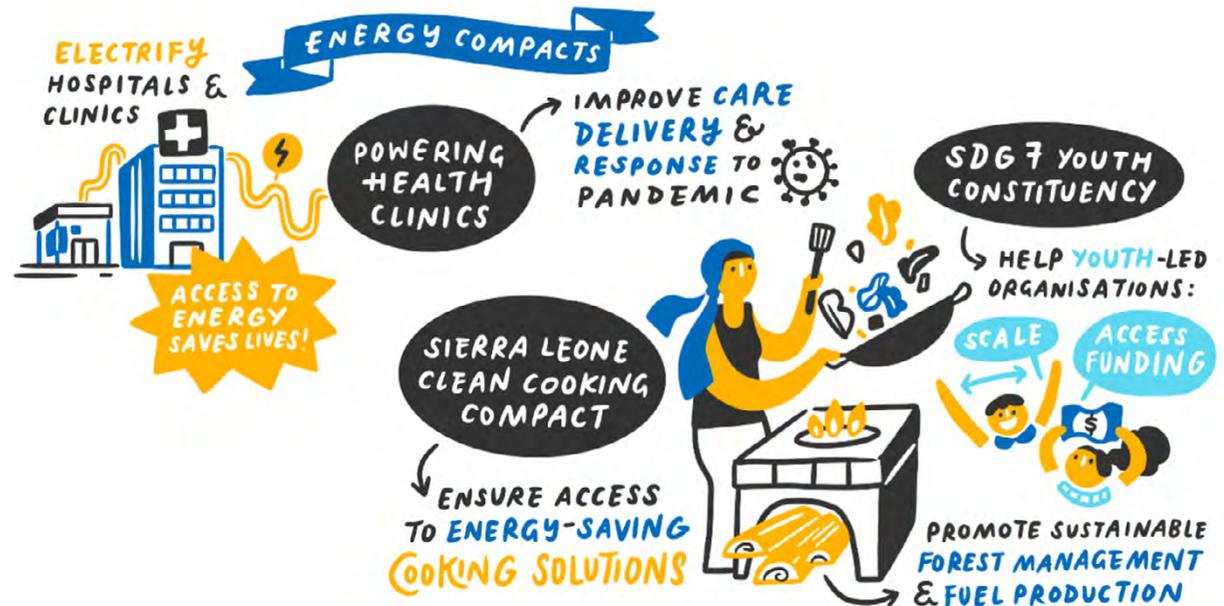
# OVERVIEW OF COMMITMENTS

Member States	40
Local/Regional Government	11
Private Sector	54
NGO	15
Multistakeholder	7
Multilateral body/Intergovernmental Organization	19
Civil Society Organization/Youth/Philanthropy	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>157</b>

	Finance and Investment (USD)	Enhanced electricity access (no. of people)	Enhanced clean cooking access (no. of people)	Additional clean energy capacity to be deployed (GW)	Energy savings to be achieved (GWh)	New jobs to be created	New EV to be deployed	New charging stations to be installed
<b>Government commitments</b>	\$128 billion	838 million	32 million	637 GW	7,190 GWh	4.82 million	206,000	275
<b>Private-sector commitments</b>	\$493 billion	1.09 billion	15 thousand	719 GW	13,252 GWh	4.21 million	14 million	6.67 million
<b>Catalytic partnerships (leveraged outcomes)</b>	\$1,490 billion	2.58 billion	289 million	4,534 GW	>1 TWh		126,000	1,100

Please note that this summary is not exhaustive as it only reflects commitments across these key metrics that included figures that could be aggregated. To see the full list of Energy Compact submissions, please see the Annex or visit: [Energy Compacts Registry | United Nations](#)

More than 160 Energy Compacts from national and local governments, businesses, foundations and international, civil society and youth organizations from all over the world were submitted for the Dialogue, reflecting actions and finance commitments through 2030. A full list of announcements appears in the Annex.



# THE WAY FORWARD: GLOBAL ROADMAP

Without urgent action, the world will not achieve SDG7. We must dramatically accelerate our efforts. This global roadmap for accelerated SDG7 action in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement calls for the following actions:

- a. Closing the energy access gap.** Decisive action is required to achieve access to clean energy for the 760 million people who currently live without electricity and for the 2.6 billion people who lack access to clean cooking solutions. Ensuring access to clean, decarbonized energy for all by 2030 must be an urgent political priority at all levels. Investing in closing the energy access gap, halving it by 2025, should be prioritized, especially in least developed countries.
- b. Rapidly transitioning to decarbonized energy systems.** Without significant energy decarbonization, the 1.5°C goal of the Paris Agreement will fall quickly out of reach. Limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 45 percent below 2010 levels by 2030 and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. The deployment of renewable energy is lagging, especially in transport, industry, heating and cooling. Global energy-efficiency improvements must increase significantly. The phase-out of coal power generation needs to be accelerated globally.
- c. Mobilizing adequate and predictable finance.** Global investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency should be tripled ahead of 2030. Shifting fossil fuel subsidies to renewables as well as putting a price on carbon will also be crucial in accelerating the energy transition. International cooperation must be dramatically scaled up to catalyze the public and private finance and investment needed to accelerate energy transitions, especially for developing countries and small island developing states. Access to finance and the provision of technology transfer must be prioritized.
- d. Leaving no one behind on the path to a net-zero future.** The global energy transition must be just, inclusive and equitable. No two national energy transition pathways will be identical. The SDGs should be integrated as a guiding framework for energy transition through policy and planning, to enhance synergies and reduce trade-offs with other SDGs and to ensure no one is left behind, especially the most vulnerable, including women, children, youth, the elderly,

indigenous peoples and displaced populations. While the energy transition is expected to produce an overall net gain in jobs, investing in the reskilling of affected workers and in the economic diversification of communities is critical to ensuring a just transition.

- e. Harnessing innovation, technology and data.** Governments need to establish a clear direction and enabling environments for energy innovation and technology development and deployment to harness their transformational potential. More investment is required to improve the collection, management and application of data and address the digital divide. International cooperation should be enhanced to promote technology transfer to developing countries.



## 2025 MILESTONES

- An additional 500 million people to gain access to electricity
- An additional 1 billion people to gain access to clean cooking solutions
- Annual investment in access to electricity to increase to USD 35 billion and in access to clean cooking to increase to USD 25 billion
- 100% increase in modern renewables capacity globally
- Double annual investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency globally
- No new coal power plants in the pipeline after 2021
- Fossil fuel consumption subsidies re-directed towards renewable energy and energy efficiency
- 30 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency

## 2030 MILESTONES

- Universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions
- Triple global renewable power capacity
- Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- Triple annual investment for renewable energy and energy efficiency globally
- Phase out coal power plants within the OECD by 2030 and globally by 2040
- 60 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Universal access to electricity in all healthcare facilities and all schools worldwide

The Energy Compacts represent significant steps forward. They are an historic opportunity for all stakeholders — governments, businesses, youth and civil society — to seize the momentum and make bold commitments that will eventually bridge the large gap that exists between the current reality and the aspirations of the SDG7 targets, and place the world on a path to build a sustainable economy driven by renewable energy.

UN-Energy will continue to play a key role moving forward. Energy Compact Workshops will be held on a monthly basis and new Compacts will be mobilized, while visibility is also given to fully approved Compacts, showcasing the most ambitious ones in the best possible way. It will also be necessary to follow up on the implementation of the Energy Compacts to ensure monitoring and reporting.

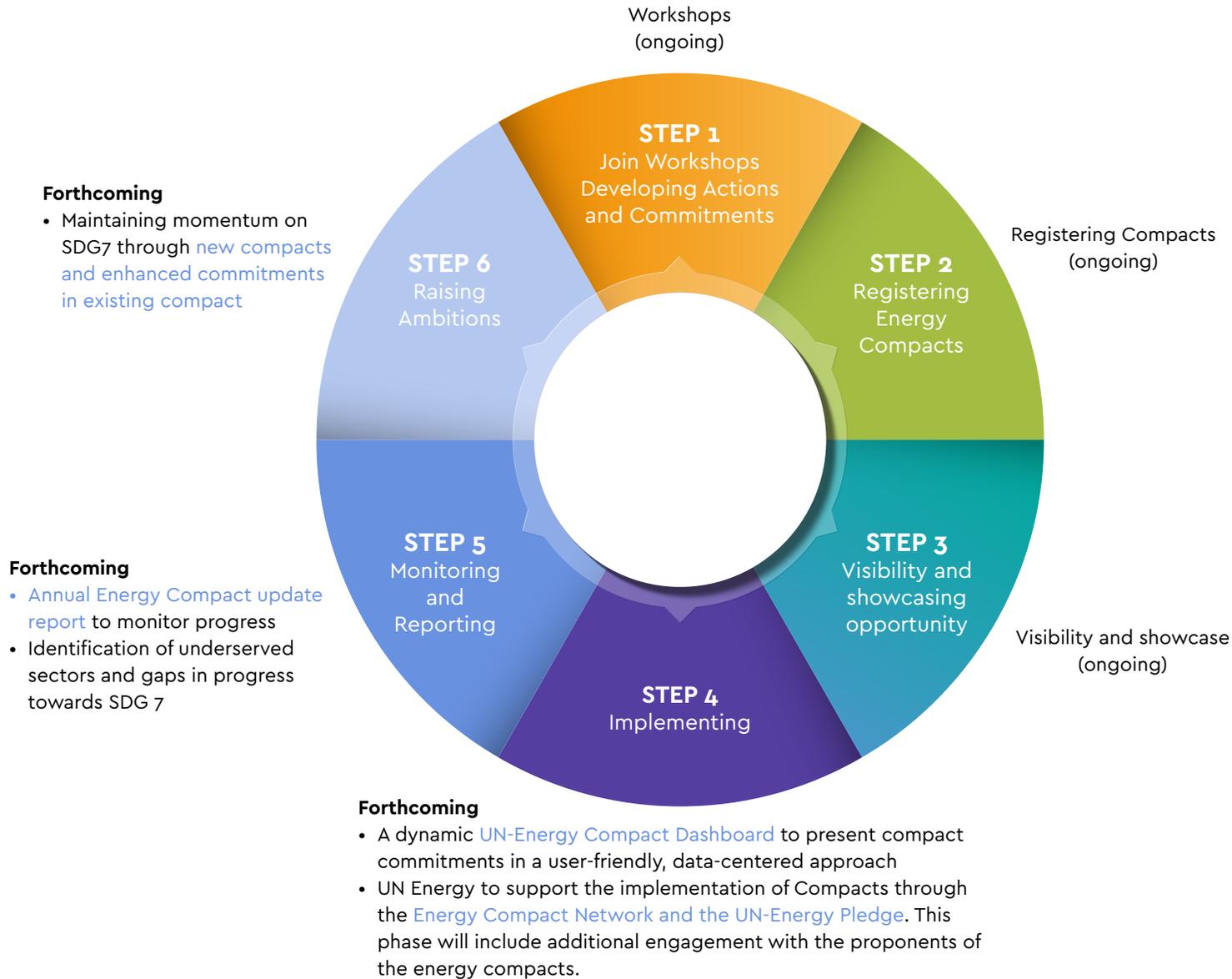
While far more is undoubtedly needed to end energy poverty and bring about the decarbonization of energy systems, the HLDE summit was an essential first step in mobilizing commitments on energy poverty and energy transition, organizing them on one single platform that can now serve to benchmark ambition, track progress, drive greater coordination and ensure accountability for delivery.

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**We urge governments, businesses, civil society and youth to be at the forefront of this energy revolution and to submit an Energy Compact. Together, we can build a global green economy that leaves no one behind.**

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# DELIVERING ACTION AFTER THE HLDE



# ANNEX – ENERGY COMPACT ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Member States

- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Chile
- Denmark
- Ethiopia
- Germany
- Honduras
- Iceland
- India
- Italy
- Japan
- Lebanon
- Malawi
- Nauru
- Netherlands
- Nigeria
- Panama
- Portugal
- Sierra Leone
- United Arab Emirates
- UK
- US
- Zambia

## Businesses

- Adani Green Energy Limited
- Adani Transmission Limited
- Bee'ah
- Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners
- CPFL
- EDP Energias de Portugal
- Enel
- Eni S.p.A.
- Google
- Graded SPA
- Iberdrola S.A.
- Johnson Controls
- Kube Energy
- Neoenergia
- NTPC LTD
- Power Ledger
- ReNew Power
- Schneider Electric
- Shell
- Taiyo Jyuken and IGES
- TotalEnergies SE
- Vale S.A.

## UN & International Organizations

- African Renewable African Renewable Energy Initiative
- EBRD
- International Solar Alliance
- Let There Be Light International
- SEforALL
- UN-Energy
- UNIDO
- World Bank

## Multi-stakeholder

- 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy
- City of Ithaca, Town of Ithaca, Cornell University
- Cool Coalition
- Eletrobras and BNDES
- Gender and Energy
- Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network
- GOGLA
- Green Hydrogen Compact
- Health Facility Electrification
- Powering Past Coal Alliance and UN-Energy on behalf of partner governments
- RELAC
- University of Roma Tre-Rossi Doria Center, Enel and Sardegna Rinnovabile

## Multilateral Bodies

- AOSIS and IRENA
- FAO and IRENA
- IRENA
- IRENA and GWEC
- IRENA, GGA, IGA
- UNDP

## Non-Governmental Organizations

- ACCESS Coalition
- GWEC
- MARCOGAZ

## Civil Society Organization

- ARE

## Philanthropic Organization

- The Rockefeller Foundation

## Regions and Cities

- Basque Country
- C40 Cities
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
- Montgomery County Government
- New Town Kolkata Green Smart City Corporation Limited
- Shimokawa Town
- Toyama City

## Academic Institution

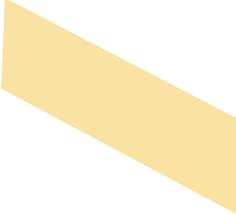
- Renewable Energy University League of Japan

## Youth

- SDG7 Youth Constituency
- Student Energy



## LINKS AND RESOURCES



[High-level Dialogue on Energy webpage](#) [HLDE September 2021 | United Nations](#)

[UN Energy webpage](#) [Home - UN - Energy](#)

[Energy Compact webpage](#) [Energy Compacts | United Nations](#)

[Energy Compact Overview](#) [Energy Compacts Registry | United Nations](#)

[Global Roadmap](#) [Global Roadmap | United Nations](#)

[Five Thematic Reports](#) [Theme Reports | United Nations](#)

[IISD HLDE Summary report, 22-24 September 2021](#) [Summary report 22-24 September 2021 \(iisd.org\)](#)

[IISD Highlights and images of main proceedings for 24 September 2021](#) [Highlights and images of main proceedings for 24 September 2021 \(iisd.org\)](#)

[UN Web TV High-level Dialogue on Energy](#) [High-level Dialogue on Energy | UN Web TV](#)

[Energy Action Day \(22 September\)](#)

[Energy Action Day \(23 September\)](#)

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 <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/energy2021>



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