

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL  
**FORUM**  
KIGALI 2022



# 2022 SEforALL Forum Report

📅 17–19 May 2022

📍 Kigali Convention Centre, Rwanda

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# Foreword

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Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) and the Government of Rwanda were pleased to welcome more than 1,300 people in person, and thousands more virtually, to the 2022 SEforALL Forum in Kigali from 17-19 May. This was the first SEforALL Forum held in nearly four years, a result of having to postpone the event twice due to Covid-19.

Of course, the delay simply made this year's Forum that much more highly anticipated for all of us involved in the sustainable energy movement. And with the event marking the first major gathering of this movement following the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy and the COP26 summit in Glasgow, we knew we had to create an experience that would help build on the momentum started by these 2021 fora.

I am proud to say that the event delivered. As you will read in the report that follows, the Forum was a catalyst for new commitments and partnerships for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) – affordable and clean energy for all – while drawing greater attention to the need for a just and equitable energy transition. It also marked a major step forward in engaging youth in the energy transition, something that is truly needed since the future of young people is most at stake.

Of course, we could not have executed the Forum without the tremendous support and dedication of our partners, our sponsors, and our Government of Rwanda co-hosts, all of whom I would like to personally thank.

This was also the first SEforALL Forum to be held in Africa, and we were privileged to have President Kagame of Rwanda set such an inspirational tone during his opening keynote. His words and those of many other high-profile speakers helped to reinforce the overarching message of the Forum: achieving global energy, climate and development goals must happen in tandem.

While we celebrate success, we also recognize that there is still a long way for us to go. Low-emitting, energy-poor countries must provide for the growth, development and aspirations of their populations while also achieving their climate targets. Countries in Africa and Asia have unique challenges that must be considered and addressed if

they are to get from where they are today to a clean energy future that leaves no one behind.

I truly believe that the Forum brought the world closer to meeting the needs of these countries, and I look forward to continuing to build on this momentum with you in the months to come.

## **Damilola Ogunbiyi**

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



# About the SEforALL Forum

The **SEforALL Forum** is the landmark global gathering bringing people together to take stock of progress, showcase success and identify solutions to achieve faster, broader gains towards sustainable energy for all. It serves as a platform to broker new partnerships, spur investment, address challenges and drive action towards realizing SDG7 and a global clean energy transition.

The objectives of the 2022 SEforALL Forum were to:

- **Inspire and mobilize further bold action**, partnerships, commitments, and resources by showcasing innovations and impacts that underpin economic recovery, empower women and youth, drive universal access to healthcare, and disrupt business-as-usual in order to achieve SDG7 by 2030.
- **Elevate the importance of SDG7 and a just and equitable energy transition**, and to further shape what such a transition must look like for economies at different stages of development.

- **Bring non-state actors, the private sector, women and youth to the forefront** of shaping solutions required to achieve energy access and a just and equitable energy transition at scale.
- **Leave no one behind** by amplifying the urgency of supporting those countries that are most at risk from energy access gaps and climate change, such as Sahel countries, Small Island Developing States and climate-vulnerable states, framing the important energy solutions to the challenges they are facing.

The three days were filled with inspiring conversations, bold commitments and transformative actions that have the potential to deliver accelerated progress towards clean, affordable energy for all by 2030 and net-zero emissions by mid-century.



# Key Outcomes

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**USD 347 million** in new financial commitments mobilized

The Forum provided impetus for major new financial commitments to be made to energy access and transition. These included the following:

- Bloomberg Philanthropies committed **USD 242 million** to accelerate the clean energy transition in ten developing countries, including Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, and South Africa, through partnerships with SEforALL, the ClimateWorks Foundation, and other key partners to expand renewable energy capacity and access while phasing out coal use.
- The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet (GEAPP) **committed USD 50 million** to further its

multi-year support for SEforALL to support scale-up of the Universal Energy Facility, the results-based financing facility managed by SEforALL, and to also support countries' energy access and transition plans.

- IKEA Foundation announced USD 5.8 million in funding also to support the scale-up of the Universal Energy Facility.
- Innovate UK's Energy Catalyst initiative announced that **up to GBP 40 million** will be issued to help combat the climate crisis for communities in the Sub-Saharan African, South Asian and Indo-Pacific regions.

## Advancing a just and equitable energy transition for Africa

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The goal of the Africa Ministerial roundtable convened at the Forum was to take initial steps in defining the principles for a just and equitable energy transition in Africa, starting a discussion that is being carried forward to COP27 in Egypt.

Ministers and high-level representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, and Zimbabwe participated in the roundtable, along with a select group of observers.

After rigorous discussion, 10 countries agreed on seven transformative actions towards achieving SDG7 in Africa, outlined in the **Kigali Communique**.

The communique serves as a foundation for ongoing discussions on the support African countries will need to meet their energy access and development goals, while contributing to global efforts to address climate change.





## Bringing youth to the forefront

We made it a key priority to involve youth representatives and advocates in the Forum and took a unique approach to our ‘youth programming’ at the event. Specifically, we ensured youth were integrated in all programming across the three days, including youth speakers in the main plenary and parallel sessions. We also set aside a dedicated space for youth-focused conversations (the SDG7 Youth Hub), with programming designed and managed by youth. The Hub bustled with energy, with sessions on topics such as securing finance for youth-run businesses, cross-continental cooperation for SDG7, career speed networking, and more.



Approximately **300 youth** attended the Forum in person.

Additional highlights of youth engagement included a one-on-one conversation between John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, and Fatoumata Diarassouba, Co-Founder of Afrik’Energy Connect, who talked about how youth can engage politically around energy and climate issues.

The “We the Inheritors” session also saw the new generation of global energy champions in dialogue with senior leaders, including Mary Robinson, Honorary President of the Africa-Europe Foundation and former President of Ireland, and Cristina Duarte, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General.

The impressive youth participation at the Forum was made possible thanks to sponsorship for youth delegations provided by Africa Europe Foundation, United Nations Development Programme, the Government of Iceland, European Union Commission, AES Corporation, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance and World Resource Institute.

## Enabling new initiatives and partnerships

The Forum provided a platform for SDG7 stakeholders to launch new initiatives and partnerships, helping them garner attention and support from those in attendance or watching virtually:

- New and updated Energy Compacts were submitted to UN-Energy, including from Nepal and the International Atomic Energy Agency, with calls for accelerated action on existing Compacts from Malawi, Nigeria and the UN. Energy Compacts are voluntary commitments to accelerate achievement of clean, affordable energy for all by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050
- Climate and impact fund manager Camco Clean Energy announced its partnership with Energy Peace Partners to manage the Peace Renewable Energy Credit Aggregation Fund to expand renewable energy investment in fragile states in Sub-Saharan Africa. The fund also announced its

expansion thanks to a new purchase of credits by Microsoft supporting solar projects in Goma, in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

- OPEC Fund presented its plans for an Energy Access and Transition Trust Fund. The facility's aim is to support clean cooking solutions and will be rolled out as a model project in Madagascar.
- The Scottish Government launched its new Global Renewables Centre during the Forum, which will provide a hub for facilitating knowledge exchange between the Scottish Renewable Sector and the Scottish Government's three African partner countries – Malawi, Rwanda and Zambia.
- The Three Percent Club was rebranded and launched as Mission Efficiency with a coalition of partners dedicated to improving energy efficiency globally.
- Solar Sister, Inc. and LivelyHoods Kenya announced their merger to bring economic opportunity and clean energy to millions of people in Sub-Saharan Africa.

## Celebrating the 10-year anniversary of SEforALL

SEforALL is celebrating its 10-year anniversary in 2022, and we marked the occasion at the Forum with a plenary session dedicated to looking back at the past decade and sharing our vision for the years to come. It was an opportunity to present the **preliminary findings** of a 10-year review of the organization's work, the entirety of which will be published in the Fall of 2022. Throughout the Forum venue, we also highlighted some key milestones in our history to visualize our development for participants.

[VIEW PRESENTATION →](#)



# Key Statistics

## ATTENDANCE



**+1,300**

In-person attendees



**3,000**

Virtual participants



**116**

Countries represented by attendees

## SESSIONS



**303**

Speakers



**81**

Total sessions



**70**

Partners co-leading  
**49 partner sessions**

## ENGAGEMENT



**9,000**

Views of the Forum plenaries online



**32,000**

Views of other Forum sessions online



**81.9m**

Potential reach of #SEforALLForum on social media



**27,100**

Engagements on social media (likes, retweets, etc.)

## MEDIA EXPOSURE

**500**

Articles referencing the Forum published in May 2022

**16**

Broadcast interviews for partners generated through partnership with CNBC Africa

### Forum coverage included major news outlets:

- CNBC Africa - [How renewables can help bridge the energy access gap](#)
- The New York Times - [Michael Bloomberg Plans a \\$242 Million Investment in Clean Energy](#)
- Project Syndicate - [Realizing Africa's Sustainable Energy Future by Michael R. Bloomberg & Damilola Ogunbiyi](#)
- The Independent - [More than 1.2bn people face potentially fatal health risks from extreme heat, report says](#)
- Devex - [African entrepreneurs call for more investment in local energy startups](#)



# Programming highlights

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The Forum hosted a wide range of platforms and sessions.

The full agenda is available [here](#). Programming highlights included:



## OPENING CEREMONY

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The opening ceremony plenary was designed to showcase the global nature and reach of this Forum and provide a platform to hear from global leaders on energy and climate. It was an honour to have a special keynote address from His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda. The opening ceremony also included remarks from António Guterres, UN Secretary-General; Damilola Ogunbiyi, CEO and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All; and Dr. Mujawamariya Jeanne d'Arc, Rwanda Minister of Environment. It also included an opportunity for Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland, and Cristina Duarte, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General, to engage in dialogue with "the inheritors", global youth representing the next generation of energy leaders and innovators.



## PLENARY SESSIONS

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The three days of the Forum featured plenary sessions with all attendees coming together in the iconic Kigali Convention Centre (KCC) auditorium for compelling sessions with influential global energy leaders. These daily opening and closing sessions were designed to inspire participants for the day-to-come and inform them by recapping important developments at the Forum. For example, the opening plenary on Day 2 presented the outcomes from Day 1's Africa and Asia-Pacific Ministerial Roundtables. The plenaries included diverse topics like "Raising the Capital for a Just and Equitable Clean Energy Transition," "Glasgow – New York - Sharm El-Sheikh: Driving Action on the Road to COP27," "Clean Cooking Must Be a Global Right," and more.






## MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLES

Two closed-door Ministerial Roundtables took place on Day 1 of the Forum, with one focusing on Africa and the other on Asia-Pacific. African ministers came together to produce a common platform on what a just and equitable transition looks like across economies at different stages of development, with the aim to shape the global debate and support a negotiating position in different venues, including at COP27. Asia-Pacific ministers participated in their own roundtable with private sector investors to showcase opportunities for crowding-in more investment for the clean energy transition.

## COUNTRY IMPACT SESSIONS

These high-level sessions showcased countries' planning and progress towards achieving SDG7, drawing on perspectives from across sectors. The design and content of these sessions were co-led with governments. Country Impact Sessions included:

-  **NIGERIA:** Green-Energy Solutions for People and Planet
-  **INDIA:** Unlocking an Inclusive Energy Transition
-  **RWANDA:** Driving Country Impact



## PARALLEL SESSIONS

Parallel sessions formed the bulk of the Forum programme, with up to five happening concurrently. They were designed in close collaboration with partners, and each focused on a specific topic or issue related to electricity access, clean cooking, energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable cooling, as well as cross-topic issues of energy access and energy transitions.

## CAPACITY BUILDING HUB

The Capacity Building Hub provided participants with the knowledge and resources needed to accelerate and scale action. These sessions were guided by user-centric design principles with the interest of the participant in mind. Examples of Capacity Building Hub sessions included an “International Career Clinic: Recruiter Insights,” “Certification Approaches for Decentralized Renewable Energy Practitioners,” and more.



## B2B INVESTMENT PLATFORM

The B2B Investment Platform offered a space where participants could connect with potential business partners, investors and policymakers through customized personal meetings. The matchmaking platform for Get.Invest was available on-site and virtually, and 203 meetings were scheduled before, during or after the event.

## SDG7 GLOBAL EXHIBIT HALL

The Foyers at the KCC provided space for partners to showcase the great work they are doing as part of the global movement to achieve SDG7, and included conversation areas to allow participants to meet, broker new partnerships and network.





### SDG7 YOUTH HUB

This dedicated space was set aside for youth to design their own programming across the three days, including capacity building workshops, networking events, and more.



Photo: Ampersand

### FIELD VISIT SHOWCASING THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFORMING RWANDA

This closing event was an opportunity for attendees to meet different companies that are making great strides towards SDG7. The event took place at the impressive Ampersand factory and featured an "Our Feature is Electric" after party with live music, cocktails, etc.

### RECEPTION AND GALA DINNER

As co-host of the Forum, the Government of Rwanda hosted an opening day reception at the KCC for all participants. This fun-filled night was an opportunity for Forum attendees to both network and experience some of Rwanda's art and culture.

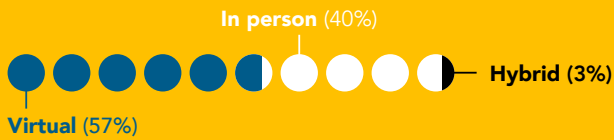
Day 2 ended with a gala dinner hosted by Bloomberg Philanthropies, one of the Forum's key sponsors, who earlier that day announced a major commitment to accelerate the clean energy transition in 10 developing countries.



# Feedback from participants

591

RESPONDENTS SURVEYED



69% indicated that Sub-Saharan Africa is their geographic focus of work

## OVERALL SATISFACTION

Average rating: 9/10



54%

said they loved the 2022 SEforALL Forum overall, giving a 10/10 rating

## RECOMMENDING TO OTHERS

Average rating: 9.3/10



70%

said they would absolutely recommend the SEforALL Forum to others, giving a 10/10 rating



88% said the Forum agenda was well designed, giving a rating of 7/10 or higher  
Average rating: 8.7/10



69% of respondents said they made useful connections for their work.



73% of respondents said they plan on doing something differently in their life or work after participating in the SEforALL Forum.

Over half of respondents (52%) said they strongly agree to having trust and confidence in SEforALL as a neutral broker for SDG7-related initiatives, giving a 10/10 rating, while 34% of the respondents gave a rating of 7/10 or higher.

Average rating: 8.7/10





## About SEforALL

Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) is an independent international organization that works in partnership with the United Nations and leaders in government, the private sector, financial institutions, civil society and philanthropies to drive faster action on Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) – access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030 – in line with the Paris Agreement on climate change.

SEforALL works to ensure a clean energy transition that leaves no one behind and brings new opportunities for everyone to fulfil their potential. Learn more about our work at [www.SEforALL.org](http://www.SEforALL.org).