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United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024) offers a timely and unique opportunity for all stakeholders to gather around a common platform to take further action to effectively move the world towards sustainable energy for all. Stakeholders have started to work with the United Nations towards a more coordinated global plan of action in which activities will complement each other and synergies will be realized that will help move forward the overall objectives of sustainable energy for all. Programmes relating to the Decade will also focus on those synergies which can be realized as a result of the strong nexus that exists between energy and other development factors, including water, food, health, education, gender and poverty.

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I. Introduction

1. Recognizing that access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries is essential for sustainable development, the General Assembly, in its resolution 65/151, decided to declare 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. During that year, many initiatives were undertaken by Member States and international organizations to create, at all levels, an enabling environment for the promotion of access to energy and energy services and the use of new and renewable energy technologies.

2. Stressing the need for a coherent, integrated approach to energy issues and the promotion of synergies across the global energy agenda for sustainable development, the General Assembly, in its resolution 67/215, decided to declare 2014-2024 the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, to be promoted through all sources of energy, mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980. In the same resolution, the Assembly invited the Secretary-General to report to it, at its sixty-eighth session, on the Decade.

II. Energy and sustainable development

3. Energy is inextricably linked to most global challenges. Access to energy sources has been a major driver of development in industrialized countries and emerging economies. Energy facilitates eradicating poverty, increasing food production, providing clean water, improving public health, enhancing education, addressing climate change, creating economic opportunity and empowering youth and women. Although there was no specific Millennium Development Goal relating to energy, energy is widely recognized as a prerequisite to the achievement of the Goals and sustainable development, as emphasized by numerous international debates, including the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

4. Nevertheless, 1.3 billion people, or nearly one in five globally, continue to lack electricity. Forty-five per cent of the world's population — 3.2 billion people — still rely on wood, charcoal, animal or crop waste or other solid fuels to cook their food and heat their homes. The "energy-poor" suffer the health consequences of inefficient combustion of solid fuels in inadequately ventilated buildings, which kills nearly four million people a year, most of them women and children,[1] as well as the economic consequences of insufficient power for productive income-generating activities and for other basic services, such as health and education. In particular, women and girls in the developing world are disproportionately affected in that regard.

5. Where modern energy services are plentiful, there are different challenges. Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuels are

[1] Stephen S. Lim and others, "A comparative risk assessment of burden of disease and injury attributable to 67 risk factors and risk factor clusters in 21 regions, 1990-2010: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2010", *The Lancet*, vol. 380, issue 9859 (15 December 2012).

contributing to changes in the Earth's climate, to the detriment of those who depend on the planet's natural systems for survival. Climate change threatens food and water security for hundreds of millions of people, undermining the most essential foundations of local, national and global stability. Competition for scarce resources is increasing, exacerbating old conflicts and creating new ones. As lands degrade, forests are felled and sea levels rise, the movement of people who have been driven from their homes by environmental change may reshape the human geography of the planet.

6. The transition to sustainable energy systems provides perhaps one of the largest global economic opportunities of the twenty-first century, which is particularly important at a time when countries are looking to improve economic performance and create sustainable jobs and employment opportunities. Despite tremendous progress, barriers still exist to promoting sustainable energy solutions, especially given the need for a dramatic change in the pace and scale of how this issue is addressed on the ground. Action is needed in areas ranging from finance, to technology development, to policy and regulatory innovation, to improved business models and governance structures.

The need for a global transformation of energy systems

7. A global transformation of the way energy is produced and consumed is needed to provide sustainable energy for all, to satisfy rapid growth in energy demand, particularly in many developing countries and emerging economies, and to diminish the negative impacts of climate change. Modern energy services stand at the centre of global efforts to induce a paradigm shift towards green economies, poverty eradication and, ultimately, sustainable development.

8. The goals that need to be achieved to promote human well-being depend on progress in the global transformation of energy systems. Societies all over the world will not be able to advance their sustainable development goals unless extraordinary changes are implemented in the way energy is produced and used, and measures implemented to secure access to affordable sustainable modern and clean energy systems.

9. Record investment is needed to propel innovation, development and commercialization of environmentally sound technologies. Ample cooperation and actions are needed to substantially increase the contribution of those technologies to the world's energy systems and to guarantee modern energy services to everyone.

III. Inducing change

10. The global conversation about energy and sustainable development is already fully under way. In many forums, including the General Assembly and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the past several years have seen an increasing recognition and reaffirmation that energy is central to virtually everything we do.

11. Momentum is growing. In regions, such as Africa, and in many countries, including the States members of the European Union, small island developing States and, most recently, States members of the Asia and the Pacific Energy Ministers'

Forum, sustainable energy for all has been endorsed as a political priority through explicit declarations and commitments to action. Hundreds of leaders in other countries, from business entities, civil society organizations and international organizations, have also come forward with concrete commitments.

12. Representatives of Member States interested in energy formed Friends of Sustainable Energy for All, an informal group of approximately 30 Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York, to promote effective dialogue on energy issues.

13. Responding to the heightened call for action with regard to energy, the Secretary-General has taken a number of steps, including establishing the Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change in 2009 and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative in 2011.

14. More broadly, the Secretary-General convened the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which recognized the importance of energy in the post-2015 agenda. The United Nations system also took the lead in organizing multi-stakeholder thematic consultations globally in support of the discussions on the post-2015 agenda. The consultation on energy called for sustainable energy for all as a potential global goal, as well as the creation of a global network on sustainable energy for all to help continue dialogue with an array of stakeholders on energy issues.

International Year of Sustainable Energy for All

15. In 2010, the General Assembly, recognizing the importance of access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, declared 2012 the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. In its resolution 65/151, the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant agencies within the United Nations system and UN-Energy, to organize and coordinate activities to be undertaken during the Year, and encouraged all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Year to increase awareness of the importance of addressing energy issues, including modern energy services for all, access to affordable energy, energy efficiency and the sustainability of energy sources and use, and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels.

16. Consequently, a number of global and regional events and initiatives were launched in order to further raise awareness of those issues.[2] The observance of the Year was very successful. It has created global awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development and has brought the issue to the top of the agenda of decision makers at the national and international levels. Furthermore, it has sparked unprecedented commitments for action that promise to advance long-term solutions to critical problems relating to energy. The Year also served as a platform for building partnerships among Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, the private sector, civil society and other actors. It has provided an effective forum for the sharing of experiences and good practices to build more inclusive national energy sectors that will improve access to sustainable energy.

[2] For additional information on activities undertaken during the Year, see A/67/314.

Sustainable Energy for All initiative of the Secretary-General

17. In 2011, the Secretary-General launched the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, which seeks to identify and mobilize action by all stakeholders in support of a major global transformation of energy systems. The initiative has the goal of achieving sustainable energy for all by the year 2030 through the achievement of three major objectives: (a) ensuring universal access to modern energy services; (b) doubling the rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and (c) doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.[3]

18. To guide the work of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Secretary-General appointed a high-level group of distinguished leaders from around the world. The High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All produced a Global Action Agenda (A/67/175) during 2012, which provides a concrete strategy for engagement by all actors across different sectors of society. It also aims to help countries and stakeholders create their own pathways toward sustainable energy for all, based on technology choices that are appropriate to their unique national and local circumstances.

19. In September 2012, the Group published a report summarizing its work (see A/67/551) and the Secretary-General appointed a Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All and Chief Executive of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Furthermore, an advisory board for the initiative was formed and is being co-chaired by the Secretary-General and the President of the World Bank. A three-tiered structure is now guiding, overseeing and supporting the implementation of the initiative. It includes the advisory board, an executive committee and a global facilitation team. Regional and thematic hubs are also being created to further support the necessary work. In addition, a global tracking framework, a joint initiative of the World Bank, the International Energy Agency and 15 other international organizations, was launched to establish baseline energy data to ensure accountability and transparency.

20. The initiative is succeeding in catalysing significant commitments to sustainable energy by Governments, the United Nations system, multilateral development banks, the private sector and civil society. More than 70 developing States have partnered with the initiative, while developed countries, civil society and businesses have announced commitments in the tens of billions of dollars.

21. The Clean Energy Ministerial has also endorsed the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Participating Governments account for more than 75 per cent of global energy consumption, 80 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and 90 per cent of global clean energy investment.

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

22. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 66/288, Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives recognized “the critical role that energy plays in the development process, as access

[3] United Nations, *Sustainable Energy for All: A Vision Statement by Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations* (New York, November 2011).

to sustainable modern energy services contributes to poverty eradication, saves lives, improves health and helps provide for basic human needs”.

23. Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives also emphasized the need to address the challenge of access to sustainable modern energy services for all, in particular for the poor, who are unable to afford such services even when they are available. They emphasized the need to take further action to improve that situation, including by mobilizing adequate financial resources, so as to provide those services in developing countries in a reliable, affordable, economically viable and socially and environmentally acceptable manner.

24. They further recognized that improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy and cleaner and energy-efficient technologies were important for sustainable development, including in addressing climate change. Commitments announced at the Conference (see A/67/551) include the following:

(a) More than 70 developing countries are now working with the initiative, with more coming on board;

(b) More than $50 billion has been pledged in support of the objectives of the initiative from the private sector and investors;

(c) Tens of billions of dollars have been committed by multilateral development banks in Asia, Europe and Latin America;

(d) Hundreds of actions have been catalysed and commitments made in support of the three core objectives;

(e) Commitments to support energy access will provide more than one billion people with access to modern energy during the lifespan of the initiative;

(f) New public-private partnerships are being formed with regard to transport, energy efficiency, solar cooking, finance and energy access for the poor.

Energy and the post-2015 development framework

25. The initial input of the Secretary-General to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (A/67/634), in December 2012, presented a summary of the responses from 63 Member States to a questionnaire asking them to identify priority areas for the definition a set of sustainable development goals. Energy was ranked among the three main priorities. The results of that exercise reflect the high level of importance that Member States place on the issue of energy.

26. The United Nations Development Group, through the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2013, led efforts to catalyse a “global conversation” on a new post-2015 development framework through a series of more than 80 national consultations and 11 global thematic consultations. The efforts were meant to stimulate discussions with all stakeholders and to foster the sharing of experiences from current initiatives, as well as a shared vision of necessary actions. One of the 11 major thematic consultations was on energy.

27. The consultation on energy was aimed at facilitating an open worldwide dialogue with all stakeholders on how energy should be integrated into the post-2015 global development framework. The consultations considered a broad range of

priority issues under the following four critical areas: universal access to modern energy services, increased use of renewable energy, increased energy efficiency and the energy-development nexus. Discussions on the energy-development nexus focused on how to promote integrated energy solutions that can produce multiple development dividends, especially in the areas of poverty, water, food security, gender, health, education and environmental sustainability.

28. In addition, the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda convened by the Secretary-General strongly recommended the integration of energy in the post-2015 agenda. The final report from the Panel included an illustrative, dedicated, global sustainable development goal relating to energy.

IV. Towards a framework for action

29. In the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Development, Member States pledged their determination "to act to make sustainable energy for all a reality and, through this, help to eradicate poverty and lead to sustainable development and global prosperity". The declaration by the General Assembly of the 2014-2024 United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All offers a both timely and unique opportunity for all stakeholders to gather around a common platform to take further action to effectively move the world towards sustainable energy for all.

30. Although the present, first report on the Decade focuses on existing activities and plans for the near future by Member States and international organizations, an integrated programme is being developed for the long term. Stakeholders have started to work with the United Nations towards a more coordinated global plan of action in which activities will complement each other and synergies will be realized that will help move forward the overall objectives of the goal of sustainable energy for all.

31. To assist stakeholders in this pursuit, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Sustainable Energy for All will be responsible for the overall coordination and organization of the activities for the Decade, supported by UN-Energy and partners of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, and in collaboration with the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders.

32. The Global Action Agenda of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative will chart a way forward by providing tangible entry points for all stakeholders to take action, linking individual, national, regional and global efforts towards pursuing specific energy objectives. The United Nations will serve as a convening platform where key stakeholders from both developing and developed countries can mobilize bold commitments, foster new public-private partnerships and leverage the significant investments needed to make the transformative changes necessary in the world's energy systems.[4]

33. The 11 Action Areas and the High Impact Opportunities already identified by the Global Action Agenda of the SE4All initiative will provide a framework for organizing collaborative efforts across all relevant sectors and for driving progress, and catalyse change.

[4] United Nations, *Sustainable Energy for All: A Global Action Agenda* (New York, April 2012).

34. The Decade programme will focus on synergies that can be realized as a result of the strong nexus that exists between energy and other development factors, including water, food, health, education, gender and poverty. The Decade will also promote more sustainable energy options in industrialized countries, in line with the global nature of the energy challenge.

35. Global support will be necessary to enhance communication and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned from experiences all over the world. In line with General Assembly requests for enhanced accountability and in order to document progress, a global tracking framework has been developed to establish the baseline and means to record progress on access to energy, energy efficiency and renewables. Also, activities should be planned to enable tracking of the changes, the progress made and the rate of implementation of programmes supporting the Decade. The global tracking framework initiative can play an important role in facilitating the monitoring of progress.

36. Building on the submitted contributions to the present report, activities in support of the Decade involving a variety of stakeholders, including nongovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, will also be essential to securing effective progress towards defined goals.

37. In its resolution 67/215, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the Decade for submission to the Assembly at its the sixty-eighth session. Under the leadership of the newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary-General, such a report will be prepared on a biennial basis, in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders and drawing, among other things, on inputs of the global tracking framework being prepared in consultation with several institutions under the leadership of the World Bank and the International Energy Agency. Annual meetings will be undertaken by UN-Energy and will build on regional consultations involving stakeholders, carried out in cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions. These consultations will contribute to the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned, as well as to progress in implementation.

38. The national, regional and global efforts of the Decade should facilitate the following positive outcomes:

(a) Catalyse actions at all levels to transform the world's energy systems towards an equitable and sustainable future: all stakeholders should lead the way by example, setting their own goals and targets on energy and the nexus with other development factors; establishing proactive policies, regulatory frameworks and incentives to spur innovation and investment; facilitating the building of market structures to deliver sustainable energy solutions and services over time; dramatically increasing bottom-up solutions; expanding capacity-building; promoting partnerships; enhancing research and development; and disseminating information on experiences and lessons learned;

(b) Create an enabling environment for a significant increase in investment in the world's energy systems: the International Energy Agency estimates that nearly $1 trillion in cumulative investment is needed to achieve universal energy access by

2030.[5] In addition, massive investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency are necessary in order to reach the global energy goals of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative;

(c) Catalyse overall investment in the world's energy systems: Public-private partnerships will be key to mobilizing the massive investment needed for the global transformation of energy systems. It will be essential to use public investment in order to leverage the private investment that is required to achieve this transformation. Consequently, there is a need for megapartnerships such as the Sustainable Energy for All initiative;

(d) Increase support for research and development: Governments and the private sector will need to support such efforts to drive technological innovation and reduce the cost of clean energy technologies, steadily allowing the reduction of costs for clean energy technologies and making these alternatives increasingly attractive economically all over the world;

(e) Continue to expand global consultations with all stakeholders in both developing and developed countries: civil society, businesses, youth and Governments should continue a dialogue in order to ensure that the perspectives of all stakeholders are appropriately captured and fed into the Decade programme, the post-2015 development framework and other relevant processes;

(f) Create more incentives for a change in behaviour to manage and allocate resources in a more sustainable manner: activities relating to the Decade should promote sustainable energy production and consumption so that energy resources are used in a more equitable manner;

(g) Expand data and statistical programmes in developing countries: more work is needed on energy-integrated targets, indicators and definitions, and on identifying data needs to capture the many dimensions and interlinkages and to ensure national relevance and measurability. The global tracking framework can provide support in that respect;

(h) Expand and increase partnerships and commitments: actions and programmes relating to the Decade should seek to expand current partnerships and secure new partnerships and commitments for interim goals by 2024 and beyond;

(i) Enhance dissemination of knowledge, commitments and solutions: the Decade should provide a platform for Governments and non-governmental actors to disseminate knowledge and to showcase and announce contributions and solutions that accelerate the ultimate goal of sustainable energy for all.

V. Contributions from Member States and other stakeholders

39. Ambitious goals and challenging programmes and projects are already taking place, or are being planned or considered, in support of the Decade programme, the SE4All initiative, and the post-215 development agenda. Nevertheless, it is clear that many Member States and national and international organizations are still in the process of developing specific plans for the long term, including the period ending

[5] International Energy Agency, *World Energy Outlook 2012: Executive Summary* (Paris, 2012).

in 2024. It is expected that those plans and programmes will be further defined during 2014, the first year of the Decade.

Member States

40. Many Member States have already expressed their support for a strong implementation programme during the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All. Member Sates consider the Decade as a major platform that will help to accelerate the necessary transformation of global energy systems.

41. Several partners have supported the immediate start-up of the global facilitation team that will manage the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. They include Austria, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Sweden, the European Commission, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, the World Bank, the United Nations Foundation and members of UN-Energy.

42. Austria provides the office facilities for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative global facilitation team in Vienna and has contributed staff to the team. The Government hosts the biennial Vienna Energy Forum, bringing together Heads of State, ministers, energy experts and representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector in order to discuss energy for sustainable development, and has supported the objectives of the initiative.

43. Belarus has planned the commissioning in the coming years of 160 additional sites generating power from renewable energy and 38 biogas facilities, as well as construction and restoration of 33 hydropower stations. The national programme for development of local and renewable sources of energy for 2011-2015 includes the construction of wind installations (440-460 MW), 126 heat pumps and geothermal energy installations with a total capacity of 8.9 MW, and 172 solar water heaters and solar plants. Under the existing assessments, the implementation of the above programmes will result by 2015 in a twofold increase in the use of renewable sources of energy.

44. Brazil aims to accomplish universal energy access by 2014, using not only conventional electrical grids but also hybrid systems, to ensure energy access to 1.7 million people as part of the national Energy for All programme to reduce social inequity and stimulate development opportunities. Moreover, Brazil’s total investment in renewable energy for the next 10 years will reach $235 billion.

45. China has made major national investments in energy supply to support the sustainable economic growth of recent years. China is the fourth-largest producer of wind energy, with 24 GW installed capacity, and aims to have 100 GW of wind power capacity by 2020. China has committed over $67 billion in investments in renewable energy. To promote national development, China has also prioritized access to energy for remote areas in western China.

46. Denmark has contributed to the initiative through, among other things, financial contributions to the technical capacity of the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme and through a strong focus on energy efficiency linked to the

Risø Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which will focus on tracking, knowledge management and implementation support related to energy efficiency.

47. France supports the objectives of the initiative, in particular, through the French Agency for Development. Its strategy includes the use of €2 billion for developing countries for renewable energy and energy efficiency for the next three years. The Agency intervenes through co-finance and project identification as part of European contributions for the initiative. In parallel, France is working to put in place a fund for study and technical assistance to raise levels of research and expertise to institute plans of actions relating to the initiative in African countries and to support development of sustainable energy projects. Public institutions and sector operators will receive capacity-building and training through that facility. Further, the French Global Environment Facility created a €5 million window of support for the development of innovative sustainable energy projects in Africa. For the future and in relation to the Decade, France recognizes that the problem of energy access is one of the most difficult ones for developing countries.

48. To improve diversification of the energy mix, Lithuania introduced biofuel exchange markets, is planning a liquefied natural gas terminal that will begin operations in 2014, increased imports of internationally generated electricity and is implementing the European Union legislative package for the gas sector. Lithuania shares the importance of reaching the three objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative globally and therefore contributes to international funds that finance energy efficiency and renewable installation projects in developing countries. Lithuania strongly supports the actions taken by the International Atomic Energy Agency to improve the existing system of international nuclear safety regulations.

49. Mexico hosted the regional dialogue on the Sustainable Energy for All initiative in March 2013 in Merida. Involving Government, business and civil society, this consultation called for energy to be fully integrated into the post-Millennium Development Goal framework and emphasized the importance of energy access as a means of promoting development. Mexico has launched an ambitious rural electrification programme and is expanding the use of solar energy and other forms of renewable energy in off-grid locations while increasing on-grid electricity from renewable energy sources.

50. The energy strategy of Morocco includes creating a diverse mix of reliable and competitive technologies, mobilizing renewable energy and other natural resources and promoting energy efficiency and effective integration into the regional energy system. The target share of renewable energy in the electric supply is 42 per cent by 2020. An institute of solar energy has been established, as well as renewable energy and energy efficiency networks, within institutes of higher education.

51. Norway believes that the Decade should support the post-2015 development agenda and, in particular, the effort regarding sustainable development goals and targets. The Decade provides an opportunity to set up a number of interim goals and milestones to be reached by 2024, supporting the final goals of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative by 2030. These goals can be pursued by securing additional commitments, greater involvement by the private sector and by new public-private partnerships specifically arranged for that purpose. Member States should use the Decade as a platform to highlight and disseminate success stories, lessons learned, best practices and solutions.

52. The Philippines has regulations that promote the exploration, development and utilization of renewable energy sources. These regulations provide the private sector various fiscal and non-fiscal incentives. The Philippines is currently implementing projects using feed-in tariffs and is supporting the acceleration of energy efficiency and conservation programmes.

53. The Russian Federation intends to contribute to the development of international cooperation in the energy sector. It considers the formation of a multilateral legal framework for international cooperation under the auspices of the United Nations to be a priority for the Decade. The Russian Federation has introduced several important initiatives of a regional and global dimension, including the Saint Petersburg Declaration and Plan of Action on Global Energy Security of 2006, and co-founded the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation. The country provided $30 million in financial assistance to energy-poor countries in 2007, launched and funded the Energy Efficiency 21 Project for 2009-2012, and developed and submitted to the Committee on Sustainable Energy at the Economic Commission for Europe the concept of the project on rendering assistance to Member Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the successful implementation of the global action plan. The country will also promote the development of a convention on international energy security. At the national level, it has created the necessary legal and institutional framework for the successful solution of problems in energy efficiency. The programme on “Energy saving and energy efficiency for the period up to 2020” has been approved, with federal expenditures expected to reach 7 billion roubles for the period 2011-2013.

54. Saudi Arabia will install at least 70 stations nationwide to measure the ability to produce electricity from the sun, wind and geothermal and waste sources, and plans to attract about $109 billion to create a solar industry that will generate one third of its electricity by 2032, or about 41,000 megawatts.

55. South Africa, working through the national utility Eskom, has increased its focus on providing electricity to rural people and those living in poor communities. Eskom has been very successful in electrification, connecting 4.07 million households to the grid and providing non-grid access (photovoltaic solar energy) to a further 6,000 households through the Eskom/Shell Joint Venture.

56. Initiatives and activities undertaken by the United Arab Emirates at the international level include: establishment by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development of a concessional loan programme of $350 million for renewable energy in developing countries, in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA); establishment by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development of the United Arab Emirates-Pacific Partnership Fund, which is allocating $50 million in grant funding for renewable energy projects in developing Pacific island countries between 2013 and 2018; completion of a grant-funded 15 MW solar PV plant in Mauritania, which is the largest solar PV plant in Africa, and execution of a grant-funded 6 MW wind project in Seychelles by Masdar in 2013; installation of 600 small-scale solar energy systems in remote communities in Afghanistan and establishment of the Zayed Future Energy Prize for clean energy innovation and deployment by Masdar; provision by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development of over $135 million in concessional finance for energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in developing countries between 2000 and 2011;

investment by Masdar of $540 million of venture capital in next-generation clean energy technologies; and provision of significant voluntary financial support to IRENA. The United Arab Emirates is also a founding member and key technical and financial contributor to the Global Renewable Energy Atlas. Initiatives and activities undertaken at the national level include the launch of Masdar City, a clean technology centre and model for urban sustainability; establishment of the first renewable energy targets in the Middle East; the opening of the world's largest concentrated solar power plant, the 100 MW Shams 1, by Masdar in 2013; and establishment of a 30 per cent demand reduction target by 2030 for the emirate of Dubai.

57. The United States of America supports the principles and aspirational goals of the Global Action Agenda of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative presented at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development through existing and planned activities across a broad range of Government agencies. It is providing substantial grant, loan and loan guarantee resources, both from funds appropriated by Congress and under loan and loan guarantee authorities, of about $2 billion for clean energy to help advance the initiative. Major activities since the Conference include: (a) technical assistance for improving enabling environments, such as leading two partner missions to help develop country action plans, the low emissions planning capacity-building initiative to support low emissions planning and clean energy implementation in 20 countries and the Global Bioenergy Partnership to promote the sustainable development of bioenergy in West Africa; (b) participation in clean energy technology partnerships such as the Clean Energy Ministerial and the Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development and the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves initiative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); and (c) Financing and mobilization of private capital through the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the United States Trade and Development Agency, the Development Credit Authority of USAID and the Department of the Treasury. In its recently unveiled Power Africa initiative, the United States committed $7 billion over five years in order to increase access to electricity. This commitment is flanked by an additional $9 billion pledged by the private sector.

Multilateral organizations

58. The European Union and its Member States have been fully supportive of the Decade. Domestically, European Union leaders have committed to transforming Europe into a highly energy-efficient, low-carbon economy by 2050. The targets of the Europe 2020 growth strategy are to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent below 1990 levels, produce 20 per cent of energy from renewables and increase energy efficiency by 20 per cent. The Agenda for Change highlights access to secure, affordable, clean and sustainable energy services as a key priority. The European Commission made a strong commitment to sustainable energy by 2030 at the European Union Sustainable Energy for All Summit in 2012. The European Union notes that increasing energy sustainability through diversification, affordable prices and energy dialogue with third countries are priority areas for future consideration. The European Union has already mobilized more than €500 million for rural and off-grid energy solutions and technical assistance. Ensuring strong

engagement with the private sector, local authorities and civil society in its activities and governance will also be crucial, as they have a key role to play in the setting up of national policy frameworks that incentivize investment in sustainable energy.

59. The World Bank Group has committed to doubling the leverage of its energy financing and to providing technical assistance to several Sustainable Energy for All initiative opt-in countries. It is also supporting initiatives in partnership with the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP). For example, the World Bank Group has launched a global technical assistance programme in connection with the initiative, with $15 million from ESMAP. Another new initiative is the Renewable Energy Mapping programme, which will produce the maps needed by Governments and project developers to identify renewable resource “hot spots” on a national scale. It has also launched a global geothermal development plan to better manage and reduce the risks of exploratory drilling and deliver power to millions. The initial target of the plan is to mobilize $500 million. This complements the Group’s financing for geothermal development, which increased from $73 million in 2007 to $336 million in 2012. Members of the World Bank-led Global Gas Flaring Reduction partnership agreed to a fourth phase of its work, which has already helped reduce gas flaring by 20 per cent worldwide since 2005. On the analytical side, the Group led a team of experts from 15 agencies to produce the Global Tracking Framework report of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

60. Stakeholders of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the members of International Renewable Energy Agency have designated the latter as the hub for renewable energy of the initiative. To date, the Agency has directly supported activities of the initiative, such as the Global Tracking Framework report, has established seven high-impact initiatives and has contributed to discussions defining the modalities for the initiative. One of the Agency’s contributions is REMAP2030, a road map designed to demonstrate possible pathways and priority actions for meeting the target of doubling the share of renewables in the global energy mix. To complement the work undertaken by the initiative, the Agency is making available its resources and tools to advance the deployment of renewable energy. While the Agency is specifically tasked with focusing on the initiative’s renewable energy goal, the Agency’s work also spans a wide range of activities relevant to the regional hubs for access and the thematic hub on energy efficiency. Therefore, the Agency is establishing institutional relationships with each of the initiative hubs to contribute to the overall effort of the initiative, enhance the flow of information and foster mutually beneficial relationships.

61. The African Development Bank has made an institutional commitment to the initiative and has been active in national dialogue processes in opt-in countries. Activities have included the preparation of strategic documents related to the initiative, the facilitation of opt-ins of African countries and country action, the mobilization of financing, and participation in initiative events.

62. The main activities of the Asian Development Bank regarding the initiative include the preparation of strategic documents, the facilitation of opt-ins of Asian countries and country action, participation in country missions and the mobilization of financing through energy sector lending and technical assistance.

63. The main activities of the Inter-American Development Bank regarding the initiative include working together with UNDP, the preparation of 19 national reports on energy and development (gap analysis) to identify opportunities for

country-level actions. The Bank, through its sustainable energy programme, has committed to the mobilization of financing and has prioritized energy in its regional strategy.

United Nations system

64. Many United Nations organizations that are member organizations of UN-Energy are already involved in efforts that support the Decade, and have announced additional commitments.

65. The United Nations Development Programme will ensure that the Decade's activities are linked to the national development priorities of developing countries in the context of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, future sustainable development goals, the follow-up actions of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the ongoing climate change discussions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Programme will, in collaboration with key partners, provide technical advice to develop specific sustainable energy solutions, in particular ones related to bottom-up/decentralized energy options. It will continue with ongoing work to provide technical assistance targeted to expanding "bottom-up" approaches to specific demand sectors such as education, health, agriculture, youth employment, small enterprises and rural and urban housing.

66. The World Health Organization considers the initiative as a landmark opportunity to reduce the enormous disease and death burden associated with the lack of access to clean, modern energy solutions, and inefficient energy use. Significant health benefits can be derived from transitions to clean renewable energy sources in the workplace, the community and the home, making health an indicator of progress towards all initiative goals. Tracking improved access to clean and sustainable energy by households and health-care facilities, reduced exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution and its related disease burdens, and occupational risks in the energy sector can serve as valuable health indicators of progress on the initiative.

67. The United Nations Environment Programme will support the Decade by engaging in multi-stakeholder partnerships and promoting the global tracking framework. The energy efficiency hub initiated by the Government of Denmark as a satellite to the UNEP Risø Centre will focus on tracking, knowledge management and implementation support related to energy efficiency. In addition, UNEP will strengthen regional efforts and capitalize on its energy-related Global Environment Facility (GEF) portfolio. The Programme will initiate the development of renewable energy sustainability criteria, building on work by the International Resource Panel, and promote an integrated approach to the objectives of the initiative, which will allow the harnessing of mutual benefits and synergistic effects between access, efficiency and renewables. The Programme will contribute to knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising through UNEP flagship publications (e.g. the *Global Environment Outlook*); communication and outreach activities, including multimedia campaigns; networks, including regional networks of climate change officers and the Climate Technology Centers and Network, along with support to the Clean Energy Solutions network); and the biennial International Renewable Energy

Conference, facilitated by the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century (REN21).

68. The multi-partner programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on Energy-Smart Food for People and Climate represents the commitment of FAO to the implementation of the initiative. The Organization has prominent roles in two high-impact opportunities of the Global Action Agenda: chairing the steering committee on sustainable bioenergy; and co-chairing the high-impact opportunity effort on the "water-energy-food nexus". The food-energy-water nexus and the climate-land-energy-water-development nexus are important elements to consider in achieving food security and sustainable development. The Energy-Smart Food for People and Climate programme seeks to address those challenges by working towards the goals of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative at all stages of the agrifood chain. Examples of activities include developing a robust and cost effective water-energy-food nexus assessment package, improving energy efficiency at different stages of the agrifood chain and improving access to affordable modern energy services to reduce food losses.

69. The strategy of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) will build on its achievements, with an emphasis on renewable energy and priority objectives focusing on: (a) education and capacity-building; (b) the sharing of best practices and scientific and technological knowledge; and (c) promoting related energy policies and the setting of standards. The objectives of UNESCO activities are implemented under the Global Renewable Energy Education and Training Programme. The strategy of UNESCO includes assistance to Member States to take concrete actions through effective policies and institutional frameworks towards enhancing the use of renewable energy technologies. The contribution of UNESCO serves as a catalyst to projects with a multiplier effect and can leverage additional funding. As an example, the Renewable Energy Futures for UNESCO Sites initiative was launched to promote the use of UNESCO biosphere reserves and World Heritage sites as field observatories on the sustainable use of renewable energy sources.

70. Potential contributions of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its partners to the energy issue will be to implement and sustain the land-based, marine-based and space-based observing programmes that will provide information to decision makers on energy potential at various sites. The programmes of WMO, such as the World Climate Programme, including the World Climate Research Programme and co-sponsored bodies like the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, mobilize the scientific community, which contributes to climate-change studies and assessments and improves the understanding of long-term trends relating to climate-dependent energy demands at the global level. Furthermore, the Commission for Climatology of WMO provides global leadership in promoting expertise and international cooperation in climatology. The Global Framework for Climate Services will provide an opportunity for WMO and partnering agencies to address issues related to user requirements for climate information related to the energy sector, and will identify and, with support from donors and sponsoring agencies, address the observational, research and information and forecast production needs that will serve to improve climate services to the energy sectors.

71. CleanStart is the innovative approach of the United Nations Capital Development Fund to access by poor households to sustainable, low-cost clean

energy. The programme is aimed at supporting access for low-income households and micro-entrepreneurs to modern energy through microfinance. It is designed to support at least 2.5 million people benefiting from cleaner and more efficient energy by 2017. CleanStart will support up to 18 financial service providers in six countries in Asia and Africa to provide microfinance for clean energy solutions. It will also work towards building a sustainable supply chain for energy technologies or services chosen for lending. CleanStart is implemented by the United Nations Capital Development Fund in close cooperation with GEF. A total of $60 million will be lent over the life of the programme, with the potential to reduce over 300,000 tonnes of CO2. Based on an initial investment of $26 million, CleanStart could leverage an additional $49.5 million by collaborating with other actors or programmes in refinancing ($30 million), energy value chain development ($18 million) and carbon financing ($1.5 million).

72. The International Fund for Agricultural Development can enhance its participation in the rural energy sector, given its strong link with microfinance institutions. The Fund needs to place additional value on "strengthening entrepreneurial and business skills and the promotion of private investment" by providing better access to finance for rural people. One example (a $500,000 grant in the pipeline) concerns solar-powered drip irrigation systems in Benin.

73. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) subprogramme on sustainable energy, through its Committee on Sustainable Energy and subsidiary bodies, will continue to provide member States with a platform for international dialogue and cooperation. Action by ECE will focus on issues related to energy efficiency, cleaner electricity production from fossil fuels, renewable energy, coal mine methane and the United Nations framework classification. The Committee will continue its energy security dialogue. The contribution of ECE to the Decade will be developed along the objectives and areas of work indicated by the agreement among member States of April 2013.

74. Programmes and activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) that are relevant to the initiative have been summarized as relating to energy commodity development and greening international trade. The energy commodity development programme includes reducing information asymmetry for increased energy access and efficiency, promoting natural gas in the global energy mix, increasing local participation for reducing energy poverty, negotiating contracts for balanced accrual of returns and improved access to energy services, mitigating the impact of energy price volatility for universal access to energy and formulating trade, competition and investment policy for energy development. Greening international trade refers to commodity supply chains relating to clean energies. The CO2 embodied in international trade and the carbon footprint of transporting goods lead to difficulties with regard to effectively decarbonizing economies. In that context, global standards that go beyond accounting for greenhouse gas emissions are necessary. For example, agrifood standards should integrate computation of the "environmental footprint", from "farm to fork". Two activities of the programme include fuel efficiency and sustainability principles of freight transport, and the UNCTAD Biofuels Initiative.

75. One main objective of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the facilitation of consensus to promote regional cooperation to enhance energy security and the sustainable use of energy in the Asia and Pacific region. The

Asian and Pacific Energy Forum held in the Russian Federation in May 2013 was the first intergovernmental ministerial conference on energy under the auspices of the United Nations. The meeting resulted in the adoption of a ministerial declaration on regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in the Asia and Pacific region, and a plan of action on regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy in the Asia and Pacific region for the period 2014-2018. With funding support from IFAD and the United Nations Development Account, ESCAP is implementing a multi-year project to widen access to modern energy services for rural communities through the Pro Poor Public Private Partnership. The project is developing national and local capacities to attract private sector investment in rural energy access with locally available renewable energy resources.

76. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will continue to play a key role in the coordination of the activities of UN-Energy and will support the implementation of the Decade. As the UN-Energy secretariat, the Department has coordinated the participation of member organizations in the post-2015 consultation on energy and on initiative activities. The Department is also supporting the effort towards a global transformation of energy systems and is leading a public-private partnership on minimum electricity access that promotes electrification in isolated rural communities with stand-alone systems. The Department is also preparing a survey of international cooperation activities in rural areas and is organizing a global conference on capacity development for rural sustainable energy access, to be held in Ethiopia in December 2013. The Department will promote cooperation among United Nations agencies for the implementation of programmes supporting the Decade and the nexus between energy and water, health, food security, agriculture, gender and education.

77. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is involved in the delivery of technical assistance, capacity-building and policy advice in support of access by developing countries to clean and efficient energy for productive use. The Organization stands ready to support the implementation of the Decade by focusing on tangible actions and concrete initiatives enabling the global transition to a “greener” model of industrialization and economic growth. It will support Member States through initiatives that support the development of national industrial energy efficiency action plans, and promote and support the dissemination of energy management systems, standards and best policies and practices relating to energy audit and management. It is the initiative’s lead organization with regard to energy efficiency and renewable energy standards, and works with GEF and the International Organization for Standardization on these topics as a high impact opportunity.

Non-governmental organizations

78. The Energy Access Practitioner Network of the United Nations Foundation draws together businesses, investors and civil society organizations working to deliver sustainable energy services to communities and households in areas with no access to electrical grids. With more than 1,300 members, the Network focuses on market-based sustainable energy applications, emphasizing mini- and off-grid solutions, and catalyses energy service delivery to achieve the objective of universal energy access by 2030. As part of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the

United Nations Foundation is leading an effort with WHO and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to link energy access and women's health care. This multidisciplinary initiative will bring together partners from the energy and health sectors, government, business and civil society to develop and deliver decentralized, sustainable energy solutions to remote areas. The United Nations Foundation will help remote health facilities to obtain the electricity and to power the medical equipment they need to improve women's health, and drive progress toward universal energy access. The Global Partnership for Energy-Efficient Buildings is a public-private partnership aimed at helping policymakers implement policies and programmes that increase investment in energy-efficient buildings. The Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves works to enhance access to modern energy services by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions.

79. Practical Action published the *Poor People's Energy Outlook 2013*, which focuses on the contribution that improved energy access can make to vital community services such as health, education and infrastructure services, including water and street lighting. The approach of Practical Action to achieving universal energy access focuses on total energy access, taking into consideration who has access to energy across households, businesses and in the community, and how that energy is used.