

MEETING SUMMARY

UN-Energy Principals Meeting

26 June 2018

Introduction

1. A meeting of UN-Energy Principals took place at UN HQs in New York on 26 June 2018. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and attended by UN-Energy Co-Chairs, Principals and other officials.
2. The list of participants is attached in Annex 1. The concept note prepared by the Co-Chairs and circulated in advance of the meeting is attached in Annex 2.
3. The discussion during the meeting focused, among others, on the composition of UN-Energy, potential priority areas of work, and next steps. The present summary highlights main points from the discussion.

Discussion: Main points

4. The Deputy Secretary-General underscored the need for re-energising the UN system and clear prioritisation of UN-Energy's work to speed and scale up the implementation of the SDGs achievement and the Paris Agreement on climate change at the country level.
5. Mr Achim Steiner, Co-Chair, pointed out that the first step would be to map out activities of the UN-Energy members and produce a heat map to identify future priorities. He proposed that a quick review be undertaken to distil main lessons to-date, including to learn from similar coordination mechanisms such as UN-Water. He noted that UN-Energy membership issues could be looked at in due course.
6. Ms Rachel Kyte, Co-Chair, while noting that the world is currently not on track to achieve SDG7, called for strengthening support to member states, by more effectively leveraging lessons/best practices, the power of data and our ability to look across the UN system. She pointed out the UN development system reform process could provide an opportunity to strengthen dialogues with member states.
7. Principals and their representatives joined the Co-Chairs to share their perspectives. Salient features of the discussion included:
 - a) Composition:
 - Need to clarify how to interact with the wider stakeholder group outside the UN system, including rules and modalities of engagements; and
 - Establish in due course of a mechanism to work together through

information sharing and joint activities.

b) Functions:

- Focus on a few areas where UN-Energy members can collectively work together to deliver, which could include: i) finance and investment; ii) knowledge and information platforms; iii) clean cooking challenge; and iv) data;
- Address interlinkages between energy and other SDGs, especially: i) energy and gender; ii) energy and climate change; and iii) energy and air pollution (including household air pollution);
- Create and maintain an up-to-date inventory of who is doing what in UN-Energy;
- Identify and leverage UN-Energy's comparative strengths effectively, given that it is an important yet a not-the-only global platform;
- Strengthen support for countries that are lagging most behind (least developed, landlocked and small islands);
- Leverage existing platforms more effectively (such as the International Forum on Sustainable Development); and
- Consider future funding arrangements to support activities of UN-Energy.

Next steps

8. The Co-Chairs underscored the need for quickly identifying the unique focus of UN-Energy around a few priorities. They stressed the opportunities ahead of us to capitalise on, especially the Secretary-General's Climate Summit next year. The Co-Chairs indicated that they would solicit information and thoughts from UN-Energy members in due course to develop a note on how to move forward. They informed that the deep dive on energy in preparation for the SG's Climate Summit would be undertaken in the margins of the HLPF. Further detail will follow shortly.
9. The Deputy Secretary-General, in her closing remarks, thanked all the participants for their contributions. Welcoming active engagements of all members with a call for strengthened Principal-level engagements in the future, DSG noted that she looks forward to seeing the Co-Chairs together with the DESA secretariat sharing next steps.

Annex 1: List of Participants

1.	EOSG	Ms. Amina Mohamed, Deputy Secretary-General
2.	UNDP (Co-Chair)	Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator Mr. Marcel Alers, Head of Energy
3.	SRSG (Co-Chair)	Ms. Rachel Kyte, SRSG for Sustainable Energy for All Mr. Ignacio Nacho Trabadela, Special Assistant to the SRSG
4.	IFAD	Mr. Karan Sehgal, Renewable Energy Technologies Officer
5.	UNECA	Mr. Linus Mofor, Chief of Section
6.	UNECE	Ms. Olga Algayerova, Executive Secretary Ms. Elizabeth Tinschert, UNECE Sustainable Energy Division Mr. Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division
7.	UNEP	Mr. Mark Radka, Chief, Energy and Climate Branch
8.	UNESCAP	Mr. Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division
9.	UNFCCC	Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Deputy ES
10.	UNIDO	Mr. Boris Brkovic, Climate Technology and Innovation Expert Ms. Katarina Barunica, Associate Industrial Development Expert
11.	UNITAR	Mr. Oliver Wootton Mr. Thomas Fohgrub
12.	UNOHRLLS	Ms. Fekitamoeloa Utoikamanu, USG Ms. Rita Ruohonen, Economic Affairs Officer
13.	WB	Mr. Riccardo Puliti, Senior Director, Head of Energy
14.	WHO	Ms. Maria Neira, Director, Public Health and the Environment Department Ms. Heather Adair-Rohani, Team leader on Household Energy and Health
15.	IRENA (Partner)	Mr. Adnan Amin, Director-General
16.	UN Foundation (Partner)	Mr. Ryan Hobert, Senior Director, Climate & Energy
17.	UN DESA (Secretariat)	Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director, DSDG Mr. Minoru Takada, Team Leader, Sustainable Energy, DSDG Mr. Nicolas Franke, Sustainable Development Officer, DSDG Ms. Nadine Salame, Programme Assistant, DSDG

Annex 2: Concept Note

UN-Energy

Principals' meeting

10.15am to 11.15am - 26 June 2018

United Nations Headquarters

UN-Energy, the United Nations' mechanism for inter-agency collaboration in the field of energy, was established in 2004 as a subsidiary of the Chief Executive Board, reporting to the High-Level Committee on Programmes, to help ensure coherence in the United Nations system's multidisciplinary response to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and to support countries in their transition to sustainable energy. UN-Energy's main mission is to be the primary agent within the UN for promoting system-wide collaboration in the area of energy, since there is no single entity in the United Nations system that has dedicated responsibility for energy.

Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires early progress on the achievement of SDG 7 and supporting member states to achieve this is a priority of the United Nations.

Following the departure of the previous Chair, UN Energy has been mostly inactive. Reactivating UN- Energy is consistent with the Secretary General's desire to reposition sustainable development at the heart of the United Nations. Further, the Secretary General has indicated that the energy transition will be a key element of his 2019 Climate Summit.

In recent years, there has been relatively little activity under the auspices of UN-Energy – however the need for increased coherence and cooperation in the energy field has only increased, as the Sustainable Development Goals have moved into an era of implementation.

Accordingly, the Secretary General appointed Mr. Achim Steiner, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and Ms. Rachel Kyte, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sustainable Energy for All, to co-chair UN-Energy.

Issues to be addressed in the initial meeting include:

- **The composition of UN-Energy:** UN-Energy consists of “members” and “partners”. Currently there are 21 agencies of the UN system listed as members, with one pending (UNHCR). In addition, there are 4 partners. Since UN-Energy was last convened, new actors have emerged as playing an important role in the implementation of SDG 7. Accordingly, it would be appropriate for participants to discuss the composition of UN-Energy to ensure relevant actors are engaged to fulfil its mandate.
- **Functions of UN-Energy:** Informal consultations revealed that in the past UN-Energy was considered to have had greatest impact when ensuring that across the UN system, agencies, programmes and the Secretariat had a functional line of sight on each other's work, therefore establishing the basis for greater and more effective coordination, earlier in programme design. With SDG7 and its interrelationships with other SDGs setting a

common agenda, this goal would seem to be even more pertinent. At the same time, anecdotal feedback from member states highlights their desire for a clearer road map of what support they can expect to receive and from where within the UN system. UN-Energy can also be used to support dissemination and coherence in data relating to tracking progress on SDG 7. How can UN-Energy increase cohesion across the system in efforts to support SDGs in energy and what best practices exist and can be adopted from other similar mechanisms?

- **Next steps:** Following this principals’ level meeting, a more detailed working level meeting will be required to develop a detailed work programme for the year ahead.

Draft agenda

10:15am	Meeting opens with remarks by the Deputy Secretary General, Amina J. Mohammed.
10:20am	Remarks from each of the co-chairs of UN-Energy, Achim Steiner, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, and Rachel Kyte, the Special Representative of the Secretary General for Sustainable Energy for All
10:35am	Discussion among participants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The composition of UN-Energy - Prioritisation of work – 3 or 4 key focus areas that can be quickly actioned - Next steps.
11:10am	Closing remarks by the Deputy Secretary General, Amina J. Mohammed
11:15am	Meeting closes.