



virtual Pre-UN High Level Dialogue on Energy stakeholders'
sensitization workshop



HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON
ENERGY
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A YEAR OF ENERGY ACTION

UN HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON ENERGY

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Acronyms

AA – Action Agenda

ACCESS – Alliance of Civil Society Organization for Clean Energy Access

CSOs – Civil Society Organizations

HLDE – High-Level Dialogue on Energy

HEPA - Health Energy Plan of Action

IP – Investment Prospectus

KCCWG – Kenya Climate Change Working Group

KOSAP – Kenya Off grid Solar Access Project

LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas

NDCs – Nationally Determined Contributions

SDGs – Sustainable Development Goals

SEAF-K – Sustainable Energy Access Forum Kenya

SEforAll – Sustainable Energy for All

UNGA – United Nations General Assembly

UN – United Nations

VAT – Value Added Tax

Agenda setting and overview of workshop objectives

Brian Omenyi, Coordinator, SEAF-K

Mr. Omenyi brought members to speed by noting that The UN Secretary-General will convene the HLDE to promote implementation of energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Dialogue aims to support implementation of the UN Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024) and to accelerate ambition towards the achievement of SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy). Scheduled to take place in September 2021, the HLDE will convene at the summit level virtually. The Dialogue will be the first global gathering on energy under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) since the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in 1981.

The Dialogue is expected to produce two main outcomes: a global roadmap for concrete actions needed to achieve SDG 7; and “energy compacts” setting out voluntary commitments and actions. The HLDE will be structured around five themes:

- a) Energy access;
- b) Energy transition;
- c) Enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions;
- d) Innovation, technology, and data; and
- e) Finance and investment

Each of the Five Themes is supported by a multi-stakeholder Technical Working Group. These Groups are an opportunity for technical experts to engage in the substantive preparations for the High-level Dialogue by advancing substantive discussions on the Themes. Each of the Groups will produce a Thematic Report containing substantive recommendations on issues related to their Theme which will contribute towards an action oriented SDG7 roadmap to 2030 in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The work of the Technical Working Groups fed into the Ministerial Thematic Forums, which were intended to provide insights on priority issues under the five themes and inputs into the Dialogue itself. The Ministerial Thematic Forums for the HLDE, held from 21-25 June 2021, launched reports by five Technical Working Groups on the Dialogue’s five priority themes,

providing recommendations for action. The HLDE Ministerial included multi-stakeholder dialogues to give representatives from different sectors and organizations the opportunity to explore and provide inputs on the HLDE's five themes.

Kenya was selected as one of the Global champions under the Energy access theme for its role in accelerating actions towards universal access to electricity and clean cooking, as well as heating/cooling and other energy services. The Global Champions will spearhead advocacy, raise awareness, and inspire commitments and action on the Dialogue's five themes. The ACCESS Coalition which is hosted by KCCWG is also sitting in the Technical working group on Energy Access.

In recognition of the critical role the HLDE holds in advancing the achievement of SDG7 targets, SEAF-K organized the virtual stakeholders' workshop to;

- i. Share knowledge and information on the HLDE processes and how stakeholders can be involved.
- ii. Understand Kenya's role as a Global champion for Energy access.
- iii. Understand the technical process of inputting into the Energy Compact and the opportunities to be harnessed by energy stakeholders.

Opening remarks

Irene Mwaura – Projects officer, Energy and Climate change, WWF-Kenya

Ms. Mwaura commenced her remarks by commending ACCESS coalition for representing the civil society in this global discussions on energy. She noted that Kenya was among the first countries to develop its SEforAll Action Agenda (AA) and Investment Prospectus (IP). This has greatly supported work around energy access and highly contributed in the development of the Energy Act 2019. The government has also made a commitment to achieve access to clean cooking by 2028. With all this achievements, there is still room for more work to be done to address energy gaps experienced in our country. The introduction of VAT on LPG has had a negative impact on the progress made towards achieving energy access targets as it has resulted in hiking of gas prices thus making it expensive and not affordable by many. Despite this setback, Ms. Mwaura encouraged the various stakeholders including the civil society, private

sector, research and academia and the government to join hands and work together to ensure the set targets are achieved.

John Kioli – Chairman SEAF-K and Member National Climate Change Council

Mr. Kioli in his remarks acknowledged the financial support received from WWF-Kenya to facilitate the workshop and other projects being implemented by SEAF-K. He noted Kenya is in the process of accelerating the achievement of SDG7 targets and other commitments such as the Paris Agreement. Kenya revised its NDC targets upwards and committed to cut its emissions by 32% and energy will play a critical role in achieving this. He pointed out that more than 760 million people globally are lacking access to energy. This therefore offers an opportunity to focus more on those who are away from the grid to enhance connection and access to energy. ACCESS coalition, KCCWG and SEAF-K have worked on the energy compact which will be one of the matters to be discussed during the conference. He reiterated the opportune moment presented through the workshop to bring members together to strengthen the engagements and further share thoughts on what should be presented during the conference.

Paul Mbuthi – Deputy Director, Renewable Energy Directorate, Ministry of Energy

Mr. Mbuthi in his remarks reiterated the support of the Ministry to the various initiatives being implemented by the various stakeholders in the energy sector including the civil society. These efforts go a long way in solidifying the position of Kenya as a leader in energy access and in sustainable development as a whole. The HLDE has unified the global community for the first time as participants from across the globe will come together to discuss on matters on SDG7 and how the targets will be achieved. The Ministry acknowledges the recognition given to clean cooking which plays a key role in the achievement of SDG7 and in advancing access to modern energy. Kenya has been building a lot of momentum and has set a target of achieving access to modern energy services to all by 2028 against a global target of 2030. Further, Mr. Mbuthi noted that Kenya has a target of achieving net zero by 2050 as part of its contribution to address issues of climate change.

Deep-dive into the HLDE process and the Energy compact

Jacqueline Kimeu – International Coordinator, ACCESS Coalition

Ms. Kimeu informed participants that the role of CSOs in the energy sector had gained recognition in the build up to the HLDE conference. She noted that the CSOs' role was clearly defined and she encouraged participants to take hold of the opportunity to make their voices heard and contribute towards the global target of achieving SDG7 targets. In her presentation, she shared an overview of the HLDE highlighting the journey and milestones achieved thus far and the objectives of the conference which is to;

- i. Strengthen political commitment to the achievement of SDG 7
- ii. Promote green recovery from Covid-19 de-carbonised energy solution
- iii. Partnerships and voluntary commitments by all stakeholders
- iv. Leverage energy action for advancing other SDGs

The preparatory process

- December 2020 – online stakeholder participation briefing
- Formation of the Technical working groups
- Jan – May 2021 – The thematic groups developed reports that were then launched in June 2021 during the Ministerial forum.
- Energy compacts – Some were launched during the ministerial forum and the process will continue even after the HLDE.

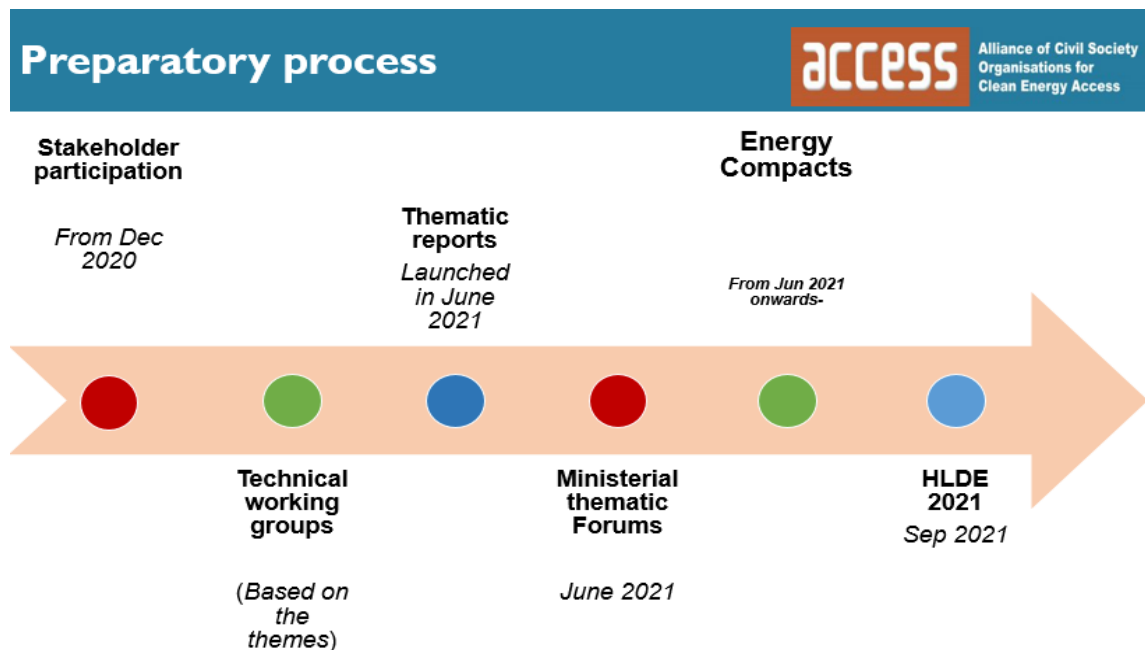


Figure 1: *The preparatory process on HLDE*

The HLDE is organized around five themes;

- i. Energy access;
- ii. Energy transition;
- iii. Enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions;
- iv. Innovation, technology, and data; and
- v. Finance and investment

Ms. Kimeu further informed participants that she was representing ACCESS coalition in the Energy Access Technical committee. She highlighted the following key recommendations as discussed under the various themes;

A. Energy Access

- i. Align energy policy and investment with energy transition pathways
- ii. Prioritize and coordinate political commitments and financing
- iii. Put people at the center of efforts to deliver universal energy- consideration of human needs, affordability, user practices
- iv. Accelerate the advancement of knowledge exchange, capacity-building, partnership-building, and innovation.
- v. Improve the availability and quality of open-source, verifiable energy information and data pertinent
- vi. Position universal access to energy as a key enabler and driver of inclusive, sustainable, recovery& just net-zero-emissions energy system

B. Energy Transition

- i. Scale-up deployment of available energy transition solutions to renewables by 2030
- ii. Countries to phase out coal by 2030
- iii. Mainstream energy policies into economic, social strategies etc.
- iv. Establish integrated energy planning strategies, define decarbonization targets,
- v. Make the energy transition a participatory enterprise.-meaningfully engage all actors

C. Finance and Investment

- i. Align energy financing with all dimensions of the Paris Agreement
- ii. Make better use of blended finance schemes
- iii. Accelerate delivery of public finance in support of sustainable energy goals
- iv. Regain the momentum lost on energy-access investments during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- v. Government to work with relevant stakeholders to ensure that the realization of SDG 7 and the global energy transition leaves no one behind

D. Enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions

- i. Integrate access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy
- ii. Implement a sustainable energy transition strategy
- iii. Accelerate the integration of gender equity into energy transition pathways
- iv. Track progress and integrate an Energy for SDG Impact Framework into energy transition strategies.
- v. Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships to leverage the transformational potential of energy for enabling the SDGs.

E. Innovation, technology and data

- i. Align energy innovation governance and international cooperation with meeting the targets for 2030 and 2050
- ii. Expand the supply of energy innovation that addresses key gaps
- iii. Increase the demand for clean and sustainable energy technologies and innovation
- iv. Improve the collection, management, and application of data and data systems

Ms. Kimeu further informed the participants that once the HLDE has been held, a global roadmap will be developed with action plans to accelerate the achievement of SDG7 and the development of Energy Compacts. She mentioned that ACCESS coalition has developed its energy compact focusing on three areas and it will be submitted during the conference.

Energy Compacts – Voluntary, inclusive & complementary



Energy Compacts will be the most **inclusive** umbrella dedicated to bring together **voluntary commitments** on all SDG7 targets in support of achieving all SDGs by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.



Figure 2: An Overview of the Energy Compact

Opportunities for CSOs to participate in the development of the Energy Compact

1. Developing Energy Compacts based on the outcomes of the thematic reports
2. Participation in online meetings e.g. the deep dives workshops
3. Side events during the HLDE meeting in September
4. Participation in main events- speaker opportunities – present actions/ recommendations etc.

In conclusion, she reiterated that the energy compact process is ongoing and stakeholders can develop theirs and submit them for review which is done regularly. The HLDE has strengthened the role of CSOs by formally recognizing their contributions towards the achievement of the SDG7 targets.

The role of Kenya as a Global champion on Energy Access

Mr. Paul Mbuti, Deputy Director Renewable Energy Directorate, Ministry of Energy

Mr. Mbuti kicked off his presentation by pointing out that the roadmap coming out of the HLDE will be an expression of what member states and key stakeholders would like to commit to advance the implementation of SDG7. On Kenya being a Global theme champion on energy

access, Mr. Mbuti noted that the government has been focusing on clean cooking. Kenya has been participating in all the preparatory events building up to the HLDE. First, the country took part in the 'Be Bold Campaign' where videos and documentaries were shared globally to express solidarity in pushing the SDG7 agenda. Thereafter, Kenya sponsored a number of deep-dive workshops on clean cooking at the Ministerial level. The country also submitted its NDCs in 2020 and the role of energy has been well defined and recognized in contributing towards the achievement of the set targets.

The Government of Kenya affirms that clean cooking is a priority and a component of its development agenda. The Energy Compact developed by the Ministry looks at a multi-pronged approach with focus on key areas such as an enabling environment, strengthening supply, stimulating demand as well as factoring in the cross-cutting issues.

A. Enabling Environment – Action areas include;

- i. Strengthen and implement policy and regulatory instruments and strategies that prioritize clean cooking. The National Treasury is currently developing the Green Fiscal strategy
- ii. Build and strengthen political goodwill to accelerate a sustainable clean cooking transition
- iii. Eliminate gaps that constrain the growth of the sector

B. Strengthening supply

- i. Develop infrastructure and proper programming of investments that will reflect the country's comparative advantages for energy supply through innovations
- ii. Position the country as a hub for investment and research in the clean cooking ecosystem
- iii. Mobilize and promote innovative financing for the development of the clean cooking sector.

C. Stimulating demand

- i. Strengthen and sustain citizen engagement efforts in promoting clean cooking solutions as well as empowering communities to adopt clean cooking

D. Cross-cutting issues

- i. Formulate a robust monitoring and reporting framework that will enable effective tracking of progress.
- ii. Promote innovations, research and development in the clean cooking sector.
- iii. Capacity building of actors involved in the transition to clean cooking
- iv. Form partnerships and collaborations that are needed to drive progress towards universal access

Mr. Mbuti highlighted a proposal of four commitments that Kenya has made in terms of ambitious actions;

- i. Committing to transition all public institutions from the use of biomass cooking fuels to higher-tier cooking solutions by 2025
- ii. Committing to accelerate the adoption and use of clean cooking by the rural and urban households whose current access is at 30% for rural households and 54% for urban households to 100% by 2028.
- iii. Review and develop enabling policies and regulations that promote accelerated adoption of modern energy cooking services
- iv. Champion for acceleration and adoption of clean cooking solutions globally, regionally and nationally. Champion for the establishment of an internationally recognized day for clean cooking.

In his concluding remarks, he reiterated the commitment of the government to partner with the civil society and all the stakeholders. The government will continue the engagements even beyond the dialogue. He noted that as a build up to the dialogue, a number of call to action documents had been prepared to inform the levers to inform change.

Plenary

1. Will the Ministry hold a side event during the HLDE to launch the energy compact developed by the government? *The Ministry has not had a conclusive discussion on how the energy compact will be launched. There was an earlier proposal to have the Head of State address a side event to present the compact.*
2. How can we network together all the stakeholders working in this space so that these programs and activities are localized at the grassroots levels for faster SDG 7 implementations? *The starting point for engagement is to have a network such as SEAF-*

K to support in putting a CSOs' statement and approach the government to see how they can be included in the discussions. There is need for CSOs to unite and monitor government processes and provide necessary data which can inform national and regional engagements.

3. What is the status of the bio-energy strategy – *Cooking is domiciled in the bio-energy strategy and currently, the Ministry is preparing an action plan for implementing the strategy. The first draft has been done and also the Ministry is in the process of developing a clean cooking strategy.*
4. How did Kenya get to be selected as a Global champion? What did they look at and what were the success factors? – *Kenya is a leader in many aspects such as in improved cook stoves, Pay-Go systems on solar PV and Geothermal. These are some of the elements that might have contributed to Kenya's selection as a global champion. Kenya is also a member of the Technical advisory group on SDG7 and therefore the ability of the government to articulate its position on energy access on this body attracted the desire to have Kenya lead in the process.*
5. Most of the youth have been victimized during activism with the issue of coal plant in Mombasa? How can we overcome the issue – *the law requires full public participation in every project and this calls for ensuring that all clusters of stakeholders fully participate in decision making. The youth are therefore not left out but they should be involved in all processes without victimization and air their concerns. The coal issue has been controversial and court halted the process.*
6. Do we have a National Health and Energy assessments report as we engage towards the High level meeting?- *There are bits and pieces of the assessment but there is no comprehensive assessment report on health and energy. The Ministry of Energy has been supporting in the electrification of health facilities. The Ministry has also been involved in the Health Energy Plan of Action (HEPA) and the government has proposed to do a nexus assessment of how access to cooking affect health and gender.*
7. My question to the team in Kenya and maybe we can learn here in Uganda is, how is Kenya promoting sustainable financing for Clean Energy? – *A number of strategies are being used to achieve this process. For instance, in the KOSAP program, the government is using the Results-based financing as a driver for sustainable financing. The other*

strategy is to allow the private sector to drive the process e.g. allow micro-finance institutions to provide finance.

Conclusion

The government is ready and committed to work with all the stakeholders to achieve the targets of SDG7. Some of the key elements of the Energy Compact prepared by ACCESS include;

- i. By 2030, energy related plans, policies and regulations in at least 10 energy access deficit countries in Africa are developed in an inclusive and integrated approach underpinned by better data and civil society engagement
- ii. By 2030, multilateral development banks prioritize distributed renewable energy investment and ensure civil society organizations active in the energy sector are well involved in the energy transition agenda in Africa, Latin America and South Asia.
- iii. To facilitate capacity building and knowledge exchange on energy access and its related targets and ensure best practices among CSOs across 20 energy access deficit countries in Africa through the ACCESS learning group.

SEAF-K will work to enhance the participation of other CSOs in SDG7 processes for instance through regular reporting of the projects being implemented to strengthen data availability on this important sector.