

28 – 31 March 2021

Documentation of the Work of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) NMUN Simulation*



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TOMORROW**

Conference A

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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Committee Staff

Director
Chair

Alexandra Bogdasarow
Zoé Tkaczyk

Agenda

- I. Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Water and Ocean Governance
- II. Closing the Energy Gap for all People

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNDP/1/1	Closing the Energy Gap for all People	Adopted by Acclamation

Summary Report

UNDP held its annual session to consider the following agenda items:

- I. Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Water and Ocean Governance
- II. Closing the Energy Gap for all People

The session was attended by representatives of 17 Member States.

On Sunday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, I, beginning discussion on the topic of “Closing the Energy Gap for all People” By Tuesday, the Dais received one proposal covering a wide range of sub-topics including creating and monitoring national action plans, expanding initiatives for the use of sustainable energy, focusing on Least Developed Countries and Low- and Middle-Income Countries. Delegates worked eagerly on their ideas and managed to submit one working paper. Delegates worked inclusively and diplomatically. They divided their work into groups, the collaboration between groups was outstanding on Monday and Tuesday.

On Wednesday, one draft resolution had been approved by the Dais, with no amendments. The committee adopted the resolution by acclamation. The resolution represented a wide range of issues, including sharing sustainable strategies to closing the energy gap, energy production infrastructure, recommendations to improve energy infrastructure in Member states, as well as extending funds. The body worked closely together to develop a detailed resolution. Their commitment to close the energy gap was shown throughout the days of work.



Code: UNDP/1/1

Committee: United Nations Development Programme

Topic: Closing the Energy Gap For All People

The United Nations Development Programme,

Acknowledging the need for energy around the world for all people and focusing on target 7.1 within Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 (affordable and clean energy) that looks to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern technology services by the year 2030,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of closing the energy gap to reach all SDGs, as well as achieving the targets of the *2016 Paris Climate Agreement*,

Impressed with the success of UNEP and NGOs in finding climate change solutions through their hosting of the distinguished Global Cooling Prize, which brings together proposed solutions to the issue which are judged by members of the scientific community, and the example it has set in terms of multilateral progress,

Reaffirming the need to collaborate with regional and local authorities in an effort to ensure accountability and efficacy of solutions, as outlined in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, especially as the deadlines for their completion approach,

Further reaffirming the goals of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty - Environment Initiative and its emphasis on ensuring that development and economic investment is sustainable, environmentally conscious, and benefits those in poverty,

Further acknowledging the objectives of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and the subsequently adopted *Agenda 21*, emphasizing the importance of sustainable energy and transport systems in human settlements,

Concerned by the disproportionate distribution of energy around the globe, especially in regard to developing countries and small-island developing states (SIDS), as well as the inequality of access to energy and the global circumstances wherein 758 million individuals continue to live without adequate access to electricity, which in turn impacts all aspects of quality of life,

Taking into account the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) (2015) and its expression of the importance to align private investment with the objectives of sustainable development, including public politics and regulatory frameworks to create appropriate incentives, as well as its expansion of technical and financial cooperation among Member States,

Reiterating the General Assembly resolution 67/215 "Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy" (2012) declaring the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024, thereby underlining the paramount importance of energy access for sustainable development,

Also reaffirming the importance of General Assembly resolution 71/256 "New Urban Agenda" (2016), stressing the importance of sustainable development in urban areas, and improving infrastructure to better realize sustainable development for all relevant actors,

Building upon the commitments made in General Assembly resolution 71/256 "New Urban Agenda" (2016) which promotes access to clean, affordable, and sustainable modern energy for all,

Emphasizing the General Assembly resolution 74/225 "Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all" (2020), acknowledging the importance of ensuring access to affordable, efficient, and sustainable energy for all,

Further recognizing the challenge that stems from a lack of transparency concerning financial cooperation,

Further concerned by the relatively small amount of some developing Member States' investment into renewable energy as seen in the *Share of state-owned energy investments by economy type and sector, 2019* figure done by the International Energy Agency (IEA),

Noting the need for multilateral cooperation in the development of energy production and infrastructure distribution through interstate transportation,

Considering the *World Bank Discussion Paper No. 391, (1997)*, a paper concerning a five-day workshop from the Asia Alternative Energy Program (ASTAE), which expressed the effectiveness of financial cooperation to strengthen infrastructure in developing countries to allow for the expansion of the global energy grid and markets that incentivize the production of renewable energy,

Further acknowledging the need to build upon previous efforts such as the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange (SS-GATE) platform on identifying where the energy gap exists most,

Further considering the social economic issues that were intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, which revealed the energy gap's consequences in various sectors including: education, healthcare, hygiene, and infrastructure,

Seeking the adoption of wider and increased diverse energy sources for the expansion of sustainable energy systems,

Fully aware of the need for the globalized energy market with transcontinental energy systems that allow for efficient transfer of energy between Member States,

Encouraging the transition to increase the use of renewable energy sources by the means of innovative technologies, space-saving power grids, and long-lasting solutions for storage and maintenance,

1. *Encourages* the development of an international annual consortium, hosted the first weekend in December, by a Member State on a rotating basis beginning at the New York UN Headquarters and organized by UNDP; it is open to all Member States, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), and recognized indigenous groups of the United Nations with the purpose of:
 - a. Granting a venue for private energy production interests to discuss sustainable strategies to closing the energy gap across all countries with the stipulation that only one private actor from a given country can be in attendance at any given time;
 - b. Sharing information relevant to the adaption of energy production infrastructure which is in need of revision to greener and more efficient forms of energy production and delivery;
 - c. Compiling a consortium report based on shared information that is open for public use and published on the UNDP Research and Publications website;
 - d. Creating greater opportunities for large-scale investors to learn about national and regional development systems and initiatives;
 - e. Contributing to existing knowledge sharing networks such as the United Nations Digital Library and the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform through the publishing of all findings of the consortium to the aforementioned platforms;
 - f. Share their research on technological advancements especially in the fields of renewable energy and information technology;

2. *Requests* Member States to implement and commit to specific national action plans combining both public and private sector efforts towards sustainable, stable, and efficient energy access by:
 - a. recognizing the sovereignty of all Member States and their capacity to establish and implement their own national action plans, but stresses the importance of cooperation;
 - b. encouraging the consultation of SEforAll within national action plans;
3. *Recommends* Member States to foster challenges like the Global Cooling Prize in an effort to promote development and excellence in private sectors concerning energy infrastructure and efficiency; using the basis of an international call to innovation for private and public development sectors alike, both regional and international blocks would be encouraged to work harder to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;
4. *Invites* the IEA to expand their investigation on the impact of energy infrastructure on the energy gap with the goal of improving the UNDP's understanding of both the progress of SDG 7 and avenues for further progression as well as providing all nations, but LDCs and LMICs in particular, with a comprehensive report of potential improvement to energy infrastructure as well as resource utilization to be contributed in the *Tracking SDG 7* report concerning:
 - a. The distribution capabilities of existing and planned infrastructure through the access of both rural and urban areas;
 - b. The economic means of the nation to fulfill any planned projects as well as the capacity to maintain existing infrastructure;
 - c. The gaps, needs, constraints and opportunities in national renewable energy plans, strategies, and capacities;
 - d. Domestic regulation regarding energy infrastructure;
5. *Supports* the expansion of the International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) by means of including additional LDCs and LMICs in the scope of their efforts, additional volunteer personnel, and additional educational outreach programs in lesser served regions aimed to encourage responsible energy usage, energy efficiency, energy infrastructure development and care through:
 - a. Continued promotion of community-based workshops given by an instructor employed through INFORSE to ensure everyone in the community can learn useful information;
 - b. Establishing partnerships with educational programs to include schools, universities, television, radio, and social media platforms to ensure accessibility to all;
6. *Invites* Member States to adopt plans for financing renewable energy for LDCs (Least Developed Countries) and LMICs (Low and Middle-Income Countries) that include providing aid at a consistent level until 2030, at which point the amount of aid provided will be lowered annually to promote economic autonomy and decrease dependency;
7. *Recommends* the stronger implementation of microcredit loans from international institutions such as the World Bank Group (WBG) to assure the implementation of the present resolution;
8. *Calls upon* the UN Capital Development Fund to allocate finances to LDCs as it relates to energy infrastructure with particular emphasis on:
 - a. Financing initial payments for microcredit loans and minimizing LDCs responsibility for interest payments which may present an undue financial burden;

- b. Financing the installation of local renewable energy sources in rural areas, in conjunction with Consultative Group to Assist the Poor, of local energy tailored to the need and resources of local communities;
9. *Welcomes the promotion by Member States of blended finance strategies as adopted by World Bank Group and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to improve financing through national banks to further mobilize private sector development through the utilization of public sector participation in order to create more efficient financing between public and private sectors;*
10. *Stresses the importance of the expansion by Member States of their collaboration with national development banks to further the mobilization of domestic resources through the development of:*
 - a. Currency bond initiatives that assist developing countries;
 - b. Capital markets and diversifying investment sectors;
11. *Supports the expansion of the board of advisors approved by ECOSOC and the UNGA in 2020, operating within the mandate of the UNDP to work in conjunction with representatives of LDCs and LMICs to include LMICs more heavily, as well as facilitating an advisory board made up of professionals within the fields of engineering, economics, and policy analysis for LDCs and LMICs on the potential for and implementation of sustainable energy solutions, in adherence to the mandate of:*
 - a. *Advising* countries on how to use the aforementioned financing to develop domestic energy transportation infrastructure to allow for safe, broad, and efficient energy transportation to further develop a globalized energy grid;
 - b. *Developing* national frameworks for budgeting and abiding to international agreements to increase transparency among governments;
 - c. *Drawing* upon the research gathered and presented at each annual consortium, the advising board would be available year-round to provide technical information regarding energy solutions and implementation to be used in the development of dynamic solutions at national, regional, and local levels of government;
 - d. *Providing* expert advice regarding the means by which a country can rapidly expand energy access to medical facilities and health services, in acknowledgement of the human right to health and electricity-dependent treatments for COVID-19 and vaccine refrigeration;
12. *Encourages* globalization of the energy market through the interconnection of various 'power grids' both domestically and between Member states and supply lines allowing for the development of energy access to rural areas;
13. *Trusts* that nation will properly and efficiently leverage the resources within their borders to build an energy surplus before contributing to the global energy market;
14. Requires that any steps taken to close the energy gap based upon the framework included herein do not cause undue harm to the realization of any other Sustainable Development Goal.