

NMUN•NY 2021



5 – 8 April 2021

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



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Conference B

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United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Committee Staff

Director	Yasmine Sabek
Chair	Souha Bouhai

Agenda

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

Resolutions adopted by the Committee

Code	Topic	Vote
UNDP/1/1	Closing the Energy Gap for All	Adopted without a vote
UNDP/1/2	Closing the Energy Gap for All	Adopted without a vote

Summary Report

The United Nations Development Programme (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 12 Member States and one non-governmental organization.

On Monday, the committee adopted the agenda of II, I and began discussion on the topic of “Closing the Energy Gap for All People.” Later that evening, delegations split into two working groups to different issues within the topic. By Tuesday, the Dais received a total of 2 working papers; one focusing on off-grid solutions and another on gender inclusion in the energy discussion. The working papers also included points on use of technology, knowledge sharing and community engagement. The delegates collaborated well during informal session, and their speeches during formal session reflected those collaborations and the content they were working on.

On Wednesday both working papers were approved by the Dais, giving the committee two draft resolutions on the floor. Both resolutions received unanimous support by the body



Code: UNDP/1/1

Committee: The United Nations Development Programme

Topic: Closing the Energy Gap for All People

The United Nations Development Programme,

Taking into consideration the work of the International Energy Agency (IEA), which has cooperated with the United Nations in the past, in keeping track of energy related data around the world,

Emphasizing the need to prioritize clean energy during the transition of closing the energy gap so as to limit the pollution that ties in directly with fossil fuel usage, while also recognizing that the initial availability of resources may limit the complete conversion to clean energy,

Recognizing the need to address the energy disparity that exists across the world, and provide access for the 789 million individuals who live within the energy gap by reaffirming the role of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 7 (sustainable energy for all),

Believing in the 2012 General Assembly resolution 66/288, “The future we want” and its acknowledgment of the critical role that energy plays in the development process, particularly in rural areas, which are the most affected by the energy gap,

Acknowledging the need for skilled workers in developing regions with the knowledge and capabilities to maintain energy grids, and appreciating the role of education, science, and technology in developing regions in order to close the energy gap,

Alarmed by the report *Tracking the SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report (2020)* which estimates that 620 million people will be deprived of access to affordable, clean, as a result, missing the 2030 goal of achieving SDG 7,

Recognizing the financial burden placed upon developing states to bridge the energy gap that presents challenges to rural areas, and reaffirming the efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in contributing USD\$6 billion from public and private sources for sustainable energy,

Underlining the importance of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and their determination to strengthen financial support for the 2030 Agenda, alongside continued efforts from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), and World Trade Organization (WTO), but also recognizing that further funds will be necessary to bridge the gap,

Applauding the recent efforts of the nations Kenya, Senegal, Rwanda, Ghana, and Ethiopia to develop the percentages of their population that have access to affordable, accessible, and sustainable energy through the implementation of a combination of electricity grids and standalone electrical connections, as well as clean cooking stoves,

Stressing the necessity of access to electricity during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, particularly to powered solar refrigerators, which facilitate the distribution and preservation of critical supplies, including the storage of COVID-19 vaccines that has already shown great advances in countries such as Uganda and Kenya,

Acknowledging the flexibility of a pay-as-you-go system, which reduces the financial burden placed upon developing states,

1. *Prioritizes* efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19 through the production and distribution of energy-based innovations such as solar refrigerators, which will allow Member States to:
 - a. Efficiently mitigate casualties due to COVID-19;
 - b. Effectively transport and preserve vaccines while maintaining low temperatures needed for storage, particularly in rural areas;
2. *Requests* the research and development of innovative technology to diversify energy sources and to meet the SDGs to ensure long-term energy for all by:



- a. Using big-data, artificial intelligence (AI), and other technologies to further research solutions to energy deficiency by using:
 - i. AI-based forecasting;
 - ii. Smart power grids and storage units;
 - iii. Drone technology for solar panel inspection;
 - b. Promoting the use of the mobile money business-led energy innovation programs to finance electricity payments, such as the pay-as-you-go system;
 - c. Implementing innovative development solutions for long-term renewable energy solutions such as:
 - i. Biomass stoves
 - ii. Solar-mini-grids
 - iii. Wind turbines;
 - iv. Hydropower;
3. *Promotes* the development of government guidelines to facilitate the productivity of establishing the responsible use of clean energy by:
- a. Collaborating with energy and environmentally specific non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in order to promote productive and eco-friendly practices within the private sector of member states;
 - b. Building an enterprise value evaluation system that:
 - i. Assesses the ‘three L’s’: low risk, low cost, and low carbon, of corporate actions to the environment, society, and global economy;
 - ii. Encourages member states to enact fiscal policies as a corporate incentive to enact the ‘three L’s’;
4. *Emphasizes* the need for the continuation of funding towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, but also recommends:
- a. Designating funds through loans, subsidies, and investments towards national development strategies and integrated least-cost planning for complete domestic access of energy;
 - b. Implementing fiscal policies that utilize subsidies to drive down clean energy costs and promote the inclusiveness of clean sustainable energy for citizens of all economic backgrounds;
 - c. Promoting financial input from local corporations and private investors towards construction of sustainable energy measures;
 - d. Prioritizing increased domestic funding and innovation to develop clean energy resources within domestic situations in order to close the energy gap and mitigate climate change;
5. *Encourages* the cooperation between member states and NGO’s, cross-border assistance programs, and business organizations, as to further fund, research, and create projects relating to closing the energy gap, due to their profound knowledge of local resources and capabilities by:
- a. Facilitating knowledge sharing on efficient energy solutions, based upon productivity, greenhouse gases output, and ease of implementation;
 - b. Supporting the establishment of environmentally friendly education programs in member states for increasing knowledge, awareness, and readiness for the application of clean renewable energy as a fossil fuel alternative and acknowledging the dangers of unclean cooking in households;
 - c. Encouraging the expansion on international energy technology transfer and trade, particularly from well-developed states towards developing populations;



- d. Further encouraging multilateral trade, diplomacy, and conduction of cooperation regarding energy infrastructure with neighboring countries;
6. *Recommends the utilization* of the energy database of the IEA in a unified effort to pinpoint rural solutions that are tailored to the terrain of communities with the least access to clean and affordable energy, and reducing fossil fuel dependency by implementing clean, sustainable, and affordable energy;
7. *Urges* Member States to continue implementing specific action plans to achieve SDG 7 in the framework of the UN 2030 Agenda by taking action in order to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, and reducing the global dependence on nonrenewable fossil fuels and other harmful energy sources.



Code: UNDP/1/2

Committee: The United Nations Development Programme

Topic: Closing the Energy Gap for All People

The United Nations Development Programme,

Emphasizing the need to find suitable and sustainable mini-grid, smart-grid, and off-grid solutions to provide rural communities with basic energy supply,

Confirming the work already done by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the provision of solar panels to refugee populations in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the introduction of energy-efficient technologies, including LED lighting, solar panels, and energy monitoring systems, to the Indian railroad system; and the construction of biogas generators in Egypt, which allow communities to capitalize on the energy produced by biomass and avoid the use of fossil fuels,

Reconfirming the UNDP's commitment to "OffGridBox" programs, designed to bring self-contained units that are environmentally friendly, upgradeable, cost-effective, and durable solutions to bring reliable energy and clean water to rural areas,

Recognizing the encouragement of women in the transition to green power in the Asia-Pacific Region - specifically the STEM-based Grassroots women's entrepreneurial movement lead by Ni Huan in China - which highlights the importance of local community cooperation, involvement, and woman leadership in energy infrastructure construction and maintenance,

Reaffirming the UNDP Sustainable Urbanization Strategy to create cost savings and increased income with an increase of energy efficiency in buildings, business, and industry,

Noting with appreciation the development of health infrastructure that can store and provide energy-dependent health services such as refrigeration of vaccines, medicine, and breast milk, in community sponsored health centers such as the completely solar powered hospital operated by Médecins Sans Frontières in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo,

Appreciating non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that contribute to giving access to energy-dependent women's health and well-being services, address time poverty, and accordingly support the accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) such as Grameen Shakti that provides micro-loans for Bangladeshi women to purchase domestic solar power systems,

Commending the Enhanced Rural Resilience in Yemen (ERRY) project for its progress in expanding regional women's rights by increasing involvement in rural business ownership with local renewable energy solutions,

Dismayed by the fact that every year 4.3 million people die from indoor air pollution while using cookstoves as heat source, disproportionately affecting women and children,

Acknowledging the 'three L' policies outlined by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that promote the fulfilment of Low-Cost, Low-Carbon, and Low-Risk energy resources by supporting the African Clean Energy, a solar biomass energy system for households in developing nations,

Encouraged by the work of SDG Holistic Innovation Platforms (SHIP) approach to bringing various stakeholders to the table to advance ideas for equitable energy creation and distribution,

Keeping in mind the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development emphasizing the exchange of technologies among developing countries to increase renewable and clean energy and encourage open communication,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to share knowledge on best-practice energy solutions by:
 - a. Participating at international cross-sectoral expert roundtables for all stakeholders, such as but not limited to those hosted by international organizations as IRENA, that involve the transfer of knowledge concerning renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and mini- as well as off-grid energy solutions;



- b. Establishing a mentoring programme for businesses in the energy sector that enables businesses in developing countries to gain information from businesses in developed countries;
 - c. Disaggregating economic and social data to link sex and gender to energy disparities to relieve women's disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work and enhancing their economic opportunities by:
 - i. Integrating gender and energy actions within all SDGs;
 - ii. Establishing gender-responsive global and national energy sector policies;
 - d. Developing gender impact studies prior to decisions regarding infrastructure policy and investment;
2. *Encourages* the construction of self-contained energy-conscious and climate-resistant infrastructure that directly benefits rural communities while allowing for community members to access and grow familiar with the energy technology required to operate them by:
- a. Working in coordination with local governments, establishing transparency, and honesty with the hopes of a good-faith long-term relationship;
 - b. Establishing a multi-stakeholder monitoring framework to combat corruption and misappropriation of funds;
 - c. Creating an environment that attracts private investment into infrastructure;
 - d. Involving local communities and local leadership in the construction, operation, and upkeep of local energy conscious infrastructure with the eventual goal of the infrastructure becoming community run and self-sufficient;
 - e. Respecting local cultures and beliefs when introducing energy solutions to rural communities; being mindful of local customs, traditions, and heritage identity;
 - f. Increasing community level education and outreach in developing rural communities through:
 - i. Prioritizing vocational training for economic and community development in order to develop local knowledge;
 - ii. Constructing and developing community centers with leadership and staffing from the community;
 - iii. Developing energy education explaining the safety risk of various types of energy and how to use them safely and smartly;
 - iv. Establishing of open information channels for developing communities;
3. *Empower* under-represented people to engage in energy careers through increasing upward mobility, entrepreneurship, and establishing beneficial uses of electricity for communities by:
- a. Creating affordable education opportunities in STEM fields to encourage long-term growth in the local knowledge base;
 - b. Establishing women and minority specific micro lending services through non-traditional banks;
 - c. Supporting women's leadership roles by employing a balanced workforce ratio;
 - d. Conducting technical skills training programs post-education;



4. *Calls for* the centralization of energy in maintaining reproductive rights and reducing childbirth mortality by:
 - a. Inviting collaboration with companies such as Youmma, which developed an affordable off-grid fridge commonly used for medication, vaccinations, and breast milk;
 - b. Working together with NGOs such as CARE, which supports comprehensive health education and services to address common barriers to pregnancy;
 - c. Establishing off-grid, consistently powered community clinics to ensure safe surgical labors and pregnancies;

5. *Emphasizes* the need for low-cost, low-carbon, and low-risk energy technologies by expanding the successes seen in the framework introduced by JICA in developing states to encourage these pillars of energy production including:
 - a. Conducting meetings with stakeholders, NGO's, CBO's, and Community Members;
 - b. Organizing training for local employment opportunities and government agents;
 - c. Selecting local champions to lead and teach others;
 - d. Monitoring progress, continue training, monitor progress, offer assistance, and resolve problems;
 - e. Facilitating exchange visits with neighboring communities to expand knowledge;
 - f. Developing chains to integrate with other livelihood options in communities for diversified income sources to meet immediate needs;

6. *Requests* for new mandates to be adopted to encourage and incentivize advances in electrification and clean cooking through:
 - a. Moving away from reliance on solid nonrenewable biomass for cooking and heating;
 - b. Creating policies and programmes reflecting local needs and expectations, accounting for social and cultural factors;
 - c. Addressing energy-dependent health risks that affect women and children such as;
 - i. Indoor use of biomass fuel and other unsafe forms of energy which cause pulmonary disease such as pneumonia;
 - ii. Unsanitary water supplies that can lead to diarrhoeal diseases such as cholera;
 - d. Expanding education campaigns to inform populations about the dangers of cookstoves as heating sources and create opportunities to access clean-burning cooking and heating.