



High-level Dialogue on Energy
Ministerial-level Thematic Forums side event

Advancing Energy (SDG 7) and Gender Equality (SDG5)

Date: June 24, 2021

Time: 11:30 – 12:45 EST | 17:30 – 18:45 CEST

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The Kenya Ministry of Energy and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in partnership with ENERGIA, UNIDO, UN Women, CCA and GWNET, are pleased to invite you to the side event “Advancing Energy (SDG 7) and Gender Equality (SDG 5)”

Women and female-headed households lag behind in accessing electricity at home, through community services and in their businesses. Globally, 2.9 billion people lack access to clean cooking, disproportionately affecting women’s health, wellbeing and economic welfare. Women are alarmingly underrepresented in the energy sector at large. Despite the challenges, women are agents of transformational change. They play key roles in delivering sustainable energy solutions to last-mile communities where commercial distributors fail to operate, and make up one third of the workforce in the renewable energy sector.

The event will highlight and discuss key messages from the policy brief “Advancing Energy (SDG 7) and Gender Equality (SDG 5)” on SDG7 progress, and how to accelerate actions on gender and energy:

- Increase investments in energy services that directly meet poor women’s energy needs for cooking, health, education, water supply and lighting.
- Support women’s entrepreneurship in energy value chains and their productive uses of energy.
- Increase women’s participation, leadership, and agency in the energy sector.
- Increase opportunities for decent jobs and career advancement for women to fulfil their potentials and aspirations in the energy transition.
- Systematically collect, report and use disaggregated data and evidence to ensure accountability to commitments on women’s empowerment.

A keynote presentation setting the context and panel discussion featuring contributors to the brief will be complemented by a dialogue with the audience to exchange views and perspectives. The side event will call for strong political will, international cooperation, and increased funding and investment for closing gender gaps in the energy sector.

Speakers:

Eng. Isaac N. Kiva, Secretary for Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy Kenya

Maria van Berlekom, Head, Unit for Global Cooperation on Environment, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Irene Giner-Reichl, President, Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET)

Seemin Qayum, Policy Advisor, Sustainable Development / Economic Empowerment, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Katharina Proestler, Gender and Energy Advisor, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Jescinta Izevbigie, Manager Gender, Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA)

Soma Dutta, Senior Technical Advisor, ENERGIA

Kandeh Yumkella, Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All

The session will be moderated by:

Paul Mbuti, Deputy Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy Kenya

Deborah Cornland, Program Manager, Energy Specialist, Unit for Global Cooperation on Environment, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency