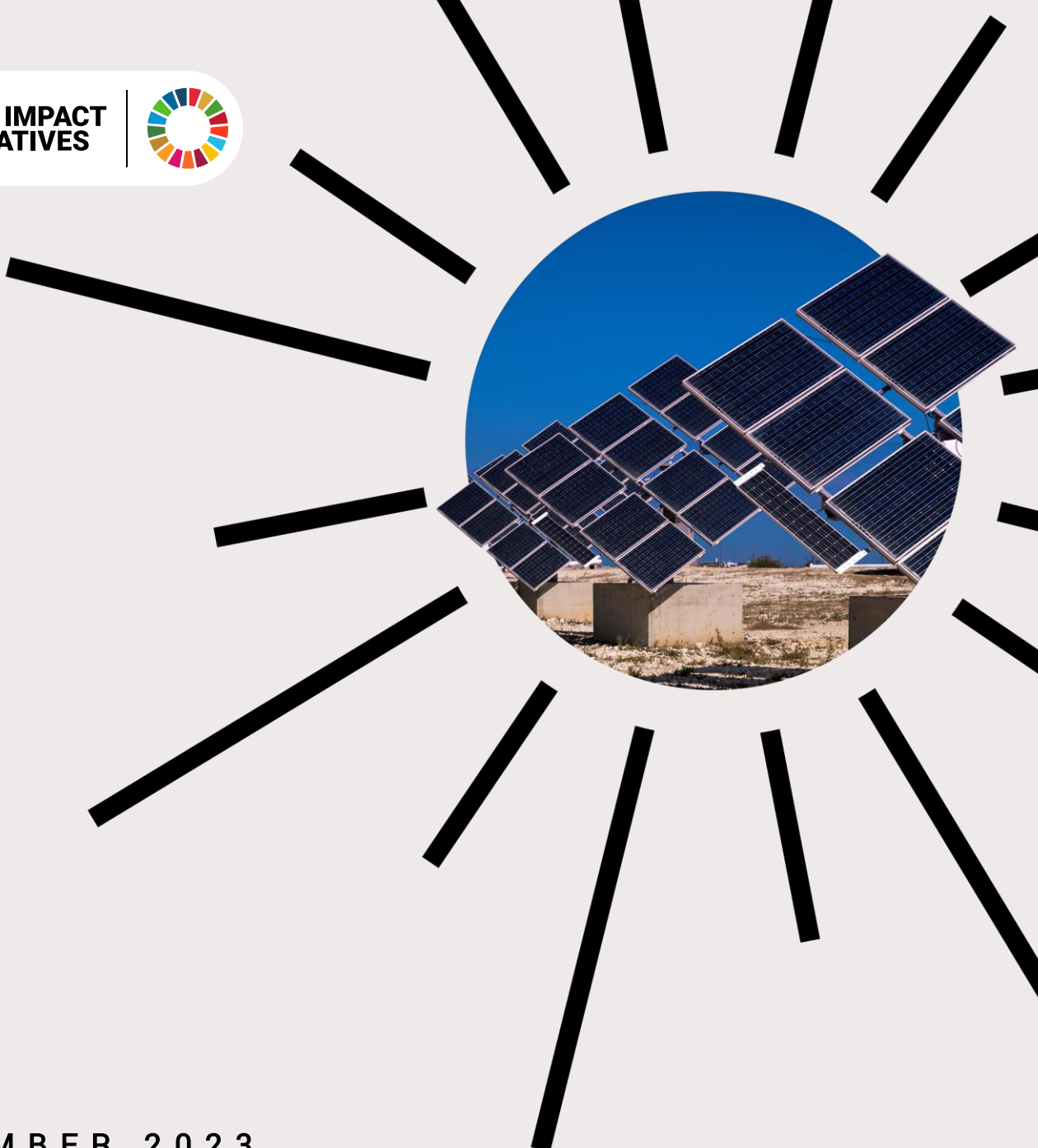




HIGH IMPACT  
INITIATIVES



SEPTEMBER 2023

# ENERGY COMPACTS

Scaling up ambition  
to deliver on SDG7

# HALFWAY TO 2030

High Impact Initiatives at SDG Action Weekend, 2023

## The SDGs are essential but we are off track

World leaders made a historic global promise to secure the rights and well-being of all peoples when they adopted the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. This Agenda recognizes that collectively, we can deliver a better future for all. However, the Agenda is a promise, not a guarantee.

Over the past eight years, the world has seen unprecedented mobilization around the SDGs and we have made significant progress on some fronts, laying the critical foundations for our future success. However, now halfway to the 2030 deadline, we are not halfway there – in fact, we are only 15% of the way.

## To keep the promise, we need a fundamental pivot

It will take more than rhetoric or increased attention to deliver the promise. We cannot stay wedded to current ways of working. Everything we do, in every corner of our world, will need to evolve for us to advance.

The fundamental pivot we need at the core of the 2030 Agenda demands that countries reorient economies, ways of working and mind-sets to ensure the rights and aspirations of all can be achieved while preserving our climate and natural environment.

## This change will take everyone

In many ways, the foundations for transformation are right in front of us - the technical know-how, institutional infrastructure, global financial resources and proven programmes – but we need to channel these resources more effectively. This is the critical moment for political leadership and bold action from national governments; for the international community to come together in common purpose; and for all partners on the SDG journey to take their contribution to the next level. We start tomorrow, by accelerating what works today.

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## THE HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVES AT SDG ACCELERATION DAY SUNDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

As we look to the future, our goal is simple: to generate renewed momentum, strengthen political leadership and channel tangible, integrated and coordinated support behind national plans and priorities. As part of the global effort to meet this challenge, the United Nations development system is mobilizing behind 12 high impact initiatives which provide a platform to help take SDG progress to scale. This platform will enable us to learn, evolve and scale what works with greater coordination and collaboration. The platform cuts across three major areas: economic and social transitions, means of implementation, and a core aspect of the cross-cutting issue of gender equality.

- **Energy** Compacts: Scaling up ambition to deliver on SDG7
- Nature Driving Economic Transformation: Leveraging the power of **biodiversity and nature** to drive equitable economic progress
- **Food Systems** Transformation: Transforming food systems for a sustainable world without hunger
- Transforming **Education**: Learning to build a better future for all
- Global Accelerator: The Global Accelerator on **jobs and social protection** for just transitions
- **Digital** Public Infrastructure: Scaling inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the SDGs
- The SDG Stimulus: Scaling up long-term affordable **financing** for the SDGs
- Transforming **Trade**: Paradigm shift to boost economic development
- **Local2030** Coalition: Pushing key transitions and achieving the SDGs by 2030
- FutureGov: Building **public sector capabilities** for the future
- Power of **Data**: Unlocking the data dividend for the SDGs
- Spotlight Initiative: To eliminate **violence against women and girls**

## VISION FOR IMPACT

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Today, 675 million people remain without access to electricity, while 2.3 billion are without access to clean cooking. Despite growing investments, renewable energy remains only 20 per cent of global energy consumption, while progress on energy efficiency remains too slow. The energy sector also accounts for around three-quarters of greenhouse gas emissions. Achieving SDG7 will be a game changer for people and the planet, and the transition to clean energy will be critical to climate action and the achievement of net zero by 2050, which will also have a ripple effect across SDGs.

The High-level Dialogue on Energy in 2021 under the auspices of the General Assembly brought together world leaders to increase commitments and mobilize action, resulting in the Secretary-General's Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action. Importantly, the Roadmap includes two sets of milestones – one for 2025 and one for 2030. Energy also plays a key role in the Secretary-General's Climate Action Acceleration Agenda, which proposes energy transition plans that include tangible actions to ensure net-zero electricity generation in developed countries by 2035 and in the rest of the world by 2040. It suggests that tangible actions must include: (1) No new coal now and coal phase-out in OECD countries by 2030 and in the rest of the world by 2040; (2) Shift fossil fuel subsidies to renewables; (3) End all licensing and funding (public and private) of new coal, oil and gas; and (4) End expansion of existing oil and gas reserves.

Realizing the Global Roadmap for Accelerated Action will require dramatically scaled up commitments and investment. To achieve universal energy access and just, inclusive, and equitable energy transitions, we must triple global investments. Energy Compacts are a powerful vehicle to expedite progress towards achieving SDG7 and just, inclusive, and equitable energy transitions in line with the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action and the objectives of the Paris Agreement. This High Impact Initiative aims to raise commitments towards investment of trillions of dollars through expanding existing commitments and mobilizing additional partnerships to accelerate implementation on the ground, while accounting for and contributing to advancing various SDGs, including gender equality, jobs and climate action.

This High Impact Initiative will drive progress not only on SDG7, but across all SDGs. The 2030 agenda strives for a future in which human production and economic development are environmentally sustainable; this requires a dramatic and concerted shift towards clean energy.

## OVERVIEW: ENERGY COMPACTS

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Energy Compacts are voluntary commitments to action, with specific targets and timelines to drive progress towards achieving SDG7 by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050. They are designed to advance electricity access, clean cooking, renewables, efficiency, and means of implementation, especially finance and investment, in the global movement towards SDG7 and just energy transitions.

Since the initiative's launch in 2021, more than 180 Energy Compacts from a broad array of stakeholders have been submitted, including from governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, youth and academia, amounting to over USD\$600 billion. The Energy Compact commitments follow an annual tracking process to measure progress against stated targets, encouraging transparency and accountability through the process. Compact proponents are required to present measurable, time-bound targets when submitting their Compacts, as well as establish baseline figures and measures of progress for the monitoring process.

As part of this High Impact Initiative, UN-Energy will facilitate the mobilization of Energy Compacts to scale up bold commitments. UN-Energy brings together some 30 UN organizations and partners that are global leaders in their respective fields, leveraging their expertise covering together all aspects of energy and other SDGs to offer a host of services and programmes at the global, regional and national levels.

The Energy Compacts High Impactive Initiative, supported by UN-Energy, is comprised of the following tracks:

1. Broadening engagement through actively reaching out to governments, international organizations, private sector entities, civil society organizations, and other non-state actors to mobilize additional commitments. This will be done through targeted outreach to key actors, and workshops and other avenues to encourage new and enhanced Energy Compact submissions.
2. Mobilizing implementation through collaboration across Energy Compact proponents to elevate the scale of investment from billions to trillions, and by fostering partnerships that encourage technical exchange and capacity building. This will be done through reactivating the Energy Compact Action Network to establish a global marketplace to make connections and secure resources in support achieving commitments and the Global Roadmap.
3. Establishing and maintaining coalitions around key themes which will play a vital role in ensuring synergies between SDG7 and other SDGs as well as net-zero goals. These coalitions will include health, gender, clean cooking, sustainable cooling, 24/7 carbon-free energy, and no new coal.

## PLANS FOR THE 2023 SDG ACTION WEEKEND

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The Energy Compacts session during SDG Action Weekend will serve as a launching point for accelerated progress toward SDG7 through Energy Compacts. It will do so by, amongst other things, showcasing ambitious commitments and progress from Member States and non-state actors and launching the 2023 Energy Compacts Annual Progress Report.

## ROADMAP TO 2030

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*Long-term plans will evolve as we learn and circumstances changes; below is our current approach to acceleration through 2030 after the SDG Action Weekend.*

### Timeline and deliverables for progress:

By 2030, the Energy Compacts initiative aims to have delivered several trillion dollars in financial commitments to energy transition efforts, universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions in developing countries and acceleration of net-zero transitions.

Following SDG Action Weekend, progress will accelerate towards the following milestones as proposed in the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action.

- *Post-summit:*
  - Scaled-up finance and commitments aligned with the urgency needed for the achievement of SDG7
  - Energy transition partnerships towards net zero in line with the Secretary-General's Acceleration Agenda mobilized
  - Development impacts on other SDGs on the ground accelerated, especially in the Global South
- *2025 (cont. on subsequent page):*
  - 500 million more people have gained access to electricity
  - 1 billion more people have gained access to clean cooking solutions; annual investment in access to electricity increased to USD\$35 billion and in access to clean cooking increased to USD\$25 billion
  - 100% increase in modern renewables capacity globally; double annual investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency globally; no new coal power plans in the pipeline

- 2025 (cont. from prior page):
  - Fossil fuel consumption subsidies re-directed toward renewable energy and energy efficiency
  - 30 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency
- 2030:
  - Universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions; triple global renewable power capacity
  - Double global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
  - Triple annual investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency globally; phase out coal power plans within the OECD by 2030 and globally by 2040
  - 60 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency; universal access to electricity in all healthcare facilities and all schools worldwide

#### Metrics for success:

Progress will be monitored through annual reporting of Energy Compact performance, with a short-term goal of reaching a one trillion dollar commitment this year, in line with the Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action. The Energy Compacts initiative will continue to report out on KPIs attached to SDG7, including the following (with specific milestones based on metrics captured in above section on timeline and deliverables for progress):

- Energy access (SG7.1; millions of people)
- Clean cooking access (SG 7.1; millions of people)
- Installed renewable energy capacity (SDG 7.2; millions of people)
- Energy efficiency savings (SDG 7.3; GWh)
- Finance commitment (SDG7 enabler, covering dollars actually invested)
- Contributions to other SDGs, including SDGs 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 13

#### Roles and responsibilities of partners:

- The Energy Compacts Action Network will run an annual reporting process that provides a way to track specific performance indicators and targets, including through the Energy Compact Dashboard
- This High Impact Initiative will also:
  - Advance Multistakeholder Compacts such as 24/7 Carbon-Free Energy, No New Coal, Gender-Energy, Cool Coalition, Youth and Energy
  - Leverage extended networks of UN-Energy Members and Partners

# ENERGY COMPACTS

COORDINATED BY

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Nations**



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For an overview of the High Impact Initiatives visit the [Transformative Actions](#) action tab on the [SDG Summit website](#)