

## Draft Remarks David Arinze

Energy access is the oxygen which powers sectors such as education, health, agriculture, and industries. Its direct relation to liberating the poor and improving lives and livelihood makes it not just a goal to be accomplished but a hope for a better future to be delivered. Unfortunately, data from the progress made thus far shows we are not on track to achieve SDG7 by 2030.

While this should be concerning it presents a huge opportunity for us to recognize the role that young people around the globe can play in the fruition of a just, inclusive, and equitable energy transition. As students, young career professionals and entrepreneurs we exemplify resilience, passion and solutions that are already making meaningful contributions to address this challenge of energy access.

We need more deliberate action towards the empowerment of youth across these categories to enable us to continue to lead more bankable and sustainable clean energy enterprises, stimulate more groundbreaking research and catalyze effective awareness about the potential of clean energy to address the energy deficit. We would continue to take meaningful action; we are committed to a clean energy future, and we would continue to call on member states to see the youth as the capacity bank that should be leveraged for the clean energy future that we all seek.