

Distinguished Vice-President of ECOSOC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

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It is my great pleasure to give you an overview of some selected key findings on SDG 7 from *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition*. This annual official UN SDG progress report is prepared by UN DESA, in collaboration with the entire UN System.

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The world continues to advance towards sustainable energy targets – but not fast enough. At the current pace, about 660 million people will still lack access to electricity and close to 2 billion people will still rely on polluting fuels and technologies for cooking by 2030. Great regional disparities are observed, and the lack of access negatively affects health, education, gender equality, climate action and the economy.

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Renewable sources accounted for 19 per cent of global final energy consumption in 2020, two thirds of which consisting of modern renewable sources. The electricity sector shows the largest share of renewables, whereas the heating and transport sectors have lagged behind. Meeting Target 7.2 will require sustained policy momentum, as well as mobilization of public and private investment, particularly in developing countries.

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Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the annual improvement of energy intensity in 2020 slowed down to 0.6 per cent, though it is expected that the pace will have picked up starting in 2022. However, to make up for lost time, energy intensity improvements will need to average 3.4 per cent per year until 2030. Prioritizing energy efficiency in policy and increasing investment can help the world achieve energy and climate targets.

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International public financial flows in support of clean energy in developing countries have been on a decreasing trend, starting even before the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing through 2021. These decreasing trends jeopardize the chances of achieving energy goals, particularly for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

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For more information, please visit our website for the full report.

Thank you very much.