

## “SDG 7 and interlinkages with other SDGs - Affordable and clean energy”

12 July 2023 from 10:00 am to 1 PM in Conference Room 4 at UN Headquarters in New York.

Panelist: Yoko Lu. Women’s Major Group & YOUNGO

Three minute intervention

My name is Yoko Lu, **speaking on behalf of** the Women’s Major’s Group and YOUNGO.

Covid-19 pandemic has had a tremendous negative impact on the world, transforming the lives of women, girls and gender diverse people. In the energy sector, the pandemic has caused alarming disruptions and delays to clean energy transitions. The development of clean energy technologies is recovering but the current structural progress is not headed for long-term improvement of the SDGs. The Financing Strategies for the 2030 Agenda mainstream actors who prioritize and promote the agenda, but they are not fundamentally appropriate to achieve all the SDGs, including SDG7. These strategies, precisely trade and investment liberalization, public-private **partnerships** (PPPs), and international private finance, weaken domestic resource mobilization, especially in developing countries. Governments and international actors are increasingly focusing on the private sector, but very little on marginalized communities especially women and youth. The **energy private sector** prioritizes profits over people, violating human rights and environmental protection, enabling the lack of accountability structures and institutions.

Extraction is the key source for the energy sector, where the natural ecosystem is damaged to produce the commodities to generate economic growth, while also disrupting social and ecological relationships among people. To ensure the just, inclusive and equitable energy transitions in support of climate action and net-zero emissions, it is important to “**prioritize investment in a just transition towards low-carbon, renewable energy infrastructure and technology that is community-owned and democratically controlled**”, while upholding ethical and human rights standards and sourcing, and reversing top-down, market-based approaches. **Delivery of climate finance pledges should be increased, and they should be grant-based, gender-transformative, and human-rights centered**, with public funding as the primary source. In addition to the interlinkage between SDGs, **gender equality** and climate, there should also be **interlinkages between disaster risk reduction, health, and human rights**, with the key emphasis on the inclusion of women and girls. National policies, innovation, and investment measures should include all voices in the development, implementation, and monitoring of rights-based **energy** policies and programs”, so no one is left behind.

Thus, it is important to recognize that the **civil society** adds the urgency to the necessary need to empower the future generations, **further** strengthening the just energy transition which escalates the momentum to address all the SDGs, **and aids the achievement of** gender equality and social justice.

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(Conclusion)

To ensure the just, inclusive and equitable energy transitions in support of climate action and real zero emissions, the Women's Major Group suggests:

1. **prioritize investment in a just transition towards low-carbon, renewable energy infrastructure and technology that is community-owned and democratically controlled**
2. **Delivery of climate finance pledges should be increased, and they should be grant-based, gender-transformative, and human-rights centered**
3. **interlinkages between disaster risk reduction, health, and human rights**