



## CONCEPT NOTE

### High-level Forum in support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024

Hong Kong SAR, China April 9-10, 2015

#### Background and Thematic Focus

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Led by the United Nations, the international community is in the process of defining a post-2015 development agenda. This agenda, to be launched at a Summit to be held at UN Headquarters from 25-27 September 2015, is timed to coincide with the target date for realizing the MDGs, and is currently being elaborated through a series of intergovernmental negotiations being held under the auspices of the UN General Assembly.

Although the process of arriving at the Post-2015 development agenda is Member State driven, a broader participation from Major Groups and other civil society stakeholders is being encouraged. Inputs to the agenda, notably a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by an open working group of the General Assembly, the report of an intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing, and the UN General Assembly's dialogues on technology facilitation, as well as from other sources, have been numerous.

The centerpiece, though, is the synthesis report that the United Nations General Assembly tasked the Secretary-General to present by the end of 2014. This report, entitled, "The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet," is the basis for the current intergovernmental negotiations, which



are expected to conclude by July 2015. The outcomes of a number of other related processes are expected to feed into the negotiations. These include the Third High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, the main United Nations platform on sustainable development, to be held at UN Headquarters from 26 June to 8 July, and the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Addis Ababa, from 13-16 July 2015.

At the September Summit, Member States are expected to adopt an outcome document with the following four possible parts: the Declaration; Sustainable Development Goals; means of implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development; and follow up and review.

A key component of the new development paradigm that will emerge in the Post-2015 development agenda is South-South Cooperation. In this regard, with a view to provide inputs to secure a practical and result-oriented platform for South-South Cooperation and partnership building, the South-South Steering Committee for Sustainable Development, the International Organization for South-South Cooperation, the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and other key stakeholders are jointly organizing a “High-level Forum in support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024”, to be held on 9-10 April, 2015 at Hong Kong, China.

The High-level Forum, which is being organized as a follow-up to the outcome document of Rio+20 “The future we want”, and several Thematic Debates on means of implementation for a transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda, will present participants with a unique opportunity to identify and to promote capacity-building and investments on new and innovative technology solutions, particularly for sustainable energy; share best practices in social and environmental policies as well as economic



growth within the framework of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, with a view to encourage job creation and to identify means for implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the developing countries.

Another important purpose of this High-level Forum will be an emphasis on advancing the goals of the “Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024,” contained in General Assembly Resolution 67/215, which, among other things, “calls upon Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, which could meet the growing need for energy services in the longer term to achieve sustainable development.”

The seek for sustainable energy for all is central to the universal recognition that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are both overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development.

On the other hand, energy is inextricably linked to most global challenges. Access to energy sources has been a major driver of development in industrialized countries and emerging economies. Energy facilitates eradicating poverty, increasing food production, providing clean water, improving public health, enhancing education, addressing climate change, creating economic opportunity and empowering youth and women.



Nevertheless, 1.3 billion people globally continue to lack electricity. Forty-five percent of the world's population (3.274 billion people) still relies on wood, charcoal, animal or crop waste or other solid fuels to cook their food and heat their homes. The “energy-poor” suffer the health consequences of inefficient combustion of solid fuels in inadequately ventilated buildings, which kills nearly 4 million people a year, most of them women and children.

In this regard, a global transformation of the way energy is produced and consumed is needed to provide sustainable energy for all, to satisfy rapid growth in energy demand, particularly in many developing countries and emerging economies, and to diminish the negative impact of climate change.

Therefore, the transition to sustainable energy systems provides perhaps one of the largest global economic opportunities of the twenty-first century, which is particularly important at a time when countries are looking to improve economic performance and create sustainable jobs and employment opportunities.

## Objectives

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The main objective of this High-level Forum is to provide participants with an opportunity to deliberate on the issues before the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the objectives of the UN's Decade of Sustainable



Energy for All 2014-2024, and identify, highlight and share best practices on several policies or activities conducive towards the achievements of these important initiatives, while bearing in mind that there are no blueprints and that one size does not fit all. Hence, the High-level Forum should leave ample space for national policy design and adaptation to local settings, but be guided by the overall vision and its underlying principles.

In this regard, the Forum seeks to achieve the following specific objectives:

- 1) To review the challenges and opportunities offered in the upcoming Post-2015 Development Agenda and the implementation of the Decade of the Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024 across the developing world; as well as to exchange ideas, best practices on existing policies, with a view to strengthening stakeholders capacities for partnership-building;
- 2) To contribute to the formulation of an agenda that is universal, transformative, inclusive and people-centered with eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development as its overarching objectives, within the framework of South-South Cooperation through an open dialogue among participants from governments, business, academia and civil society;
- 3) To mobilize support for expanded and deepened multi-stakeholder partnership, in the context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, with a view to produce concrete results by linking training and capacity-building, financing and investment opportunities, and access to international markets.



## Date and Venue

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The High-level Forum in support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Decade for Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024,” will be held in Hong Kong SAR, China, from 9–10 April, 2015.

Participants will include high-level representatives of governments, Ministers, UN Ambassadors, the diplomatic community accredited in China, high-ranking officials from the UN system, leaders of international organizations, senior executives from major private and public companies, civil society and academia, and will include a unique, real time opportunity to learn about policies, programs, initiatives and best practices on the current efforts to promote sustainable development in developing world. In addition to the policy debate, opportunities will also be available for public-private partnerships in support of the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024.”

## Outcome and follow-up

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A Summary of the Chair from the Forum’s substantive sessions will be submitted to the current (69<sup>th</sup>) session of the United Nations General Assembly as an input to the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the implementation of the commitments made to the Decade of the Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024.”The summary will also be published as part of the Annual Report of the IOSSC and the SS-SCSD for 2015.

