

PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNMENTS, PRIVATE SECTOR AND CIVIL SOCIETY CALL TO JOIN FORCES TO ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL ENERGY ACCESS THREE TIMES FASTER

New York, 4 April 2017. High level representatives from governments, private sector companies and civil society call for intensified partnerships between sectors in order to accelerate progress towards decentralized renewable energy access - specifically for low income households in rural areas. The call came out of a strategic meeting held at the fringes of the third Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) Forum that takes place in New York from 3- 5 April.

The strategic meeting, co-convened by the Dutch, Kenyan and Nepalese government, Schneider Electric, SELCO India and civil society organizations Hivos, ENERGIA and SNV, was attended by over 70 representatives from different sectors. The participants noted that progress towards universal energy access is too slow and rural areas are left behind as the world is moving towards renewable energy. Progress would need to be three times faster to provide access to affordable, reliable and modern energy for all by 2030, as agreed by governments in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At current trends, still 9% of the world's population would not have electricity by 2030, and 28% would still have to cook on firewood and charcoal.

The workshop developed concrete actions to speedily advance renewable energy access through cross-sectoral partnerships and emphasized joint ambitions. Among them, prioritizing decentralized energy, gender inclusive approaches and increasing public and private investments as well as international climate finance for decentralized solutions.

Following the workshop, a process is being set up to jointly formulate recommendations for the UN High Level Political Forum 2018 which will review progress towards SDG7. Participants agree that the stocktaking exercise is a huge opportunity to learn what works and call for increased action and raised ambition.

The participants underlined the importance of working together. "The challenge [of achieving universal energy access] is a very complex one that cannot be solved government or the private sector alone. We need the contribution and expertise of all sectors to share and co-create new solutions. Only by showing joint leadership we can reach universal access to renewable energy" says Frank van der Vleuten of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands. "We hope others will join us in this effort" he adds.

Quotes co-conveners

"Out of 5.6 billion USD allocated for energy projects and programs, only 5% of it i.e. 300 million USD has been allocated to low income countries. This unequal distribution of

financial resources demands immediate attention to address the need of 3.4 billion people who rely on inefficient cooking and 1.06 billion people without access to electricity.”

Mr Ram Prasad Dhital, Executive Director Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), Ministry of Population and Environment (MoPE)

“Schneider Electric, through its Access to Energy Program, is convinced that energy access is a basic human right. It is important for us to join this new initiative as it is the opportunity to gather all stakeholders and to find solutions to reach universal energy access.”

Gilles Vermot Desroches, Sustainability Senior Vice President Schneider Electric

"Business as usual will not get us any closer to the energy 2030 goal. To achieve universal access to energy, we need to adopt an inclusive agenda, which also means including women businesses in renewable energy value chains."

Sheila Oparaocha, ENERGIA International Coordinator and Program Manager

“By joining forces and prioritizing decentralized renewable energy we can increase climate resilience and lift people out of poverty. Partnerships with civil society, governments, financiers and private sector are crucial to accelerate successful energy access programs”.

Eco Matser, Program Manager Green and Inclusive Energy Hivos

“Today’s joint agreement is an important step to harness the gains of collaboration, bringing together global best practices and innovative approaches in stimulating sustainable energy markets.”

Tom Derksen, Managing Director Energy at SNV

The full list of agreements can be downloaded from

www.greeninclusiveenergy.org/communique

Governments, private sector, financiers and civil society organizations wanting to join the movement can submit their interest using the same web link.

The statistics on progress towards universal access to renewable energy, released at the SEforALL forum in New York can be found at

www.worldbank.org/en/topic/energy/publication/global-tracking-framework-2017

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