INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Jilly Crane-Mauzy, Whittier College
MUNFW 72nd Session – GA Second Committee

Information and communication technologies can help make our world fairer, more peaceful, and more just, improving global health and development. Information and communication technologies stress the role of unified communications and the integration of telecommunications and computers, broadband, video-conferencing, and distance learning, as well as necessary enterprise software, middleware, storage, and audiovisual, that enable users to access, store, transmit, understand and manipulate information. The importance of information and communication technologies for global health extends beyond identifying, tracing, understanding, managing, treating, and perceiving pandemics and global health crises. Moreover, information and communication technologies can help improve patient safety through direct access to the medical case story, checking the treatments online, keeping track of the patient's progress, and anticipating possible medical errors. Information and communication technologies have brought new ways of creating livelihoods for people. Information and communication technologies have accelerated the growth of the global economy and improved the quality of life of the world's inhabitants. The diffusion of information and communication technologies has also increased year by year and made it possible to reduce poverty.

International Telecommunication Union

An essential player in information and communication technologies is the International Telecommunication Union. The International Telecommunication Union is a specialized United Nations agency for information and communication technologies. The International Telecommunication Union is driving innovation in information and communication technologies together with 193 Member States and a membership of over 900 companies, universities, and international and regional organizations. Established over 150 years ago in 1865, the International Telecommunication Union is responsible for coordinating the shared global use of the radio

spectrum, promoting international cooperation in assigning satellite orbits, improving communication infrastructure in the developing world, and establishing the worldwide standards that foster seamless interconnection of a vast range of communications systems.

Sustainable Development Goals

Digital advances in information and communication technologies can support and accelerate the achievement of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals – from ending extreme poverty to reducing maternal and infant mortality, promoting sustainable farming and decent work and achieving universal literacy. Information and communication technologies specifically can "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages" (Goal 3); "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" (Goal 4); "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" (Goal 5); and "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all" (Goal 8).

Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth

The High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth, in its report entitled "Working for Health and Growth: investing in the health workforce," proposed ten recommendations and five immediate actions to transform the health and social workforce for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The ten recommendations to transform the health and social workforce for the accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are:

1. Stimulate investments in creating decent health sector jobs, particularly for women and youth, with the right skills, in the correct numbers, and in the right places;
2. Maximize women's economic participation and foster their empowerment through institutionalizing their leadership, addressing gender biases and inequities in education and the health labor market;

3. Scale up transformative, high-quality education and life-long learning so that all health workers have skills that match the health needs of populations and can work to their full potential;
4. Reform service models concentrate on hospital care and focus instead on prevention and the efficient provision of high-quality, affordable, integrated, community-based, people-centered primary and ambulatory care, paying particular attention to underserved areas;
5. Harness the power of cost-effective information and communication technologies to enhance health education, people-centered health services, and health information systems;
6. Ensure investment in the International Health Regulations (2005) core capacities, including skills development of national and international health workers in humanitarian settings and public health emergencies, both acute and protracted. Ensure the protection and security of all health workers and health facilities in all stages;
7. Raise adequate funding from domestic and international sources, public and private where appropriate, and consider broad-based health financing reform needed to invest in the right skills, decent working conditions, and a fair number of health workers;
8. Promote intersectoral collaboration at national, regional, and international levels; engage civil society, unions, and other health workers' organizations and the private sector; and align international cooperation to support investments in the health workforce as part of national health and education strategies and plans;
9. Advance international recognition of health workers' qualifications to optimize skills use, increase the benefits from and reduce the adverse effects of health worker migration, and safeguard migrants' rights;
10. Undertake robust research and analysis of health labor markets, using harmonized metrics and methodologies, to strengthen the evidence, accountability, and action.

Negatives to Consider

Unfortunately, information and communication technologies can have negative consequences. They can also threaten privacy, erode security, and fuel inequality when unchecked. Information and communication technologies have implications for human rights and human agency. Digital technologies have advanced more rapidly than any innovation in our history – reaching around fifty percent of the developing world's population in only two decades and

transforming societies. By enhancing connectivity, financial inclusion, access to trade, and public services, technology can be a great equalizer. Through understanding and regulating the flow of information and communication technology, we – the United Nations, governments, businesses, and individuals – have a choice to make in how we harness and manage new technologies, information, and communication for the opportunity for significant improvements in global health and development for this generation. Today, digital technologies such as data pooling and AI are used to track and diagnose issues in agriculture, health, and the environment or to perform daily tasks such as navigating traffic or paying a bill. Governments and businesses increasingly have the tools to mine and exploit data for financial and other purposes. The United Nations, governments, and businesses can use digital technologies such as data pooling and AI to defend and exercise human rights. However, the same technologies can also be used to violate citizens, for example, by monitoring our movements, purchases, conversations, and behaviors. Efforts to further connect the unconnected must focus primarily on improving affordability and raising awareness while leveraging the momentum and scale already achieved in the evolution of mobile technology.

Information and Communication Technologies for Global Health

The health data analytics of global information and communication technologies is complex since the digital representation of past, current, and future health information is lacking. The flow of analytics that may benefit the individual and not just meet abstract population-level goals or ambitions needs to be analyzed in detail. Supporting global health goals with information and communications technologies involves four kinds of access: namely, access to the internet, individual health data (medical data), individual data indirectly linked to health, and data about the environment relevant to health. Access to the internet will be fundamental to information and technologies, global health, and development. “Today, almost half of the world’s population lacks access to the internet, [and] the Groupe Speciale Mobile Association states that [only] 3.24 billion (44%) had mobile access at the end of 2015.” Sensemaking is also needed to meet the minimum requirement of making prospective future services understandable to policymakers. There has been

a rapid uptake and evolution of mobile technology and the declining cost of smartphones, particularly in developing countries. The most widely used means of accessing the internet are mobile networks and mobile devices. Drivers and barriers for areas in which policy decisions have the potential to drive positive developments for meeting the Sustainable Development Goals must be identified.

Information and Communication Technologies for Global Development

The Sustainable Development Goals are a wide range of global sustainable development targets for the environment, society, and the economy that the United Nations launched in 2015. In establishing the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations called on all member states to embrace an ambitious and demanding set of challenges. Two issues of profound importance lie at the heart of current thinking about the development of global economies and societies: the challenge of environmental sustainability and the potential of information and communications technologies. When considering the abilities of information and communications technologies, we must consider how these technologies affect the environment to create a sustainable future. Information and communications technologies can play an essential role in “less developed economies in addressing a wide range of sustainable development challenges including water supply and sanitation; energy supply; primary education; food supply; healthcare; and empowerment for women and minorities.” Information and communications technology can also improve education and literacy, for example, as it has the technological prowess of an extended reach and can overcome some of the significant handicaps inherent in conventional education. However, information and communications technology should enhance or supplement traditional education, not replace it. The Global e-Sustainability Initiative argued that ‘digital solutions from all areas of life can directly contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals achievements’ and, more pointedly, that ‘digital solutions are indispensable, they transform the world quickly, with attractive propositions to people and with a positive impact to achieve all of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Global System for Mobile Communications claimed that, with regard to the SDGs, the industry plays an

important role in helping to eradicate poverty, providing equal access to economic resources, and building the resilience of the poor, by 'stimulating economic participation and activity through voice and data services, providing affordable connectivity, and acting as a provider of financial services to developing economies including the powerful platform of mobile remittances that is particularly valuable to underserved communities.'

COVID-19

The global pandemic Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) provided an example of how beneficial information and communication technologies are in handling health crises. COVID-19 was the first pandemic in human history, where the United Nations, governments, businesses, and individuals used technology and social media on a massive scale to keep people safe, productive, and connected while physically apart. The World Health Organization and the International Telecommunication Union, with support from UNICEF, worked with telecommunication companies to text people directly on their mobile phones with vital health messaging to help protect them from COVID-19. These text messages reached billions of people unable to connect to the internet for information. The initiative was necessary because an estimated 3.6 billion people remained offline, with most people who were unconnected living in low-income countries, where an average of just two out of every ten people were online. Health workers utilized telemedicine to diagnose patients, and hospitals relied on being connected to coordinate and triage them. Resilient and trustworthy telecommunication networks and services became even more essential as more countries, companies, and individuals turned to digital technologies to respond to and cope with the impact of COVID-19.

BE HE@LTHY* AND *BE MOBILE

Information and communications technologies are changing expectations around access to health information and can go beyond global pandemics to address chronic conditions such as diabetes. Since 2013, WHO has been working with the International Telecommunication Union to

help countries introduce large-scale mDiabetes services using mobile phones. Mobile phones can support diabetes prevention by providing simple tips on good management or prevention, usually around diet, exercise, and checking for signs of diabetic foot complications. Diabetes was one of *Be He@lthy, Be Mobile*'s first significant programs. The joint initiative, *Be He@lthy, Be Mobile*, works to design, deploy and scale up prevention and management services for diabetes and several other non-communicable diseases. The *Be He@lthy* and *Be Mobile* created a global handbook to help countries introduce large-scale services, including content for short message service messages and support for other areas such as technology, promotion, and evaluation. Using short message service messages to deliver advice to patients speeds up the diffusion of information to help people manage or prevent the disease. They reduce prevalence and treatment costs and help patients live longer, healthier lives. Senegal was the first country to launch a targeted mDiabetes campaign in 2014 to help people manage fasting during Ramadan. *Be He@lthy* and *Be Mobile* has become an annual service, with over 100,000 registrations in 2017. Other countries are quickly following suit. In July 2016, the initiative launched an mDiabetes service in India, which currently supports over 96, 000 users. It also runs annual campaigns in Egypt to help people with diabetes manage fasting during Ramadan.

The 2017 campaign there reached over 175,000 people. “It is important to frame facts in a way which encourages people to apply what they have learned to adopt new behaviors,” says Dr. Douglas Bettcher, Director of WHO’s Department for the Prevention of NCDs, which runs the *Be He@lthy, Be Mobile* initiative. “By providing information in a format that is simple and action-oriented, it is easier for subscribers to incorporate the information into their daily routines and make positive changes in their diet, exercise, and habits. Dr. Prebo Barango, WHO’s focal point for the *Be He@lthy, Be Mobile* initiative in Africa, explains that better knowledge from the mDiabetes program impacts how doctors support patients. “The program has changed the format of medical consultations,” Dr. Barango says. “Doctors ask their patients if they have received the SMS messages and where they need more information to ensure they understand what it means. The dialogue is more constructive.” It is also an essential step in moving towards patient empowerment. By giving people the correct

information at the right time, they can take charge of their condition in between contacts with their doctor or health worker. For chronic diseases, this is essential to improve quality of life and treatment outcomes.

Questions to Consider

1. How can we protect citizens from the negative uses of information and communication technologies outlined above?
2. How can we increase access to information and communication technologies to level the health gap?
3. How can technology help impoverished people with development goals?
4. What role do information and communication technologies play in increasing globalization?
5. What is the impact of technology on wealth distribution?
6. What measures has your country taken to address the negative effects of information and communication technologies?

Bibliography

Boman M, Kruse E. Supporting global health goals with information and communications technology. Glob Health Action. 2017 Jun;10(sup3):1321904. doi: 10.1080/16549716.2017.1321904. PMID: 28838300; PMCID: PMC5645697.

Doong, Shing & Ho, Shu-Chun. (2012). The impact of ICT development on the global digital divide. Electronic Commerce Research and Applications. 11. 518–533. 10.1016/j.elerap.2012.02.002.

Information and communications technology (ICT) indispensable to global health. (2008, August). *Global Health Matters*, *7*(4). https://www.fic.nih.gov/News/GlobalHealthMatters/Pages/Information-technology.aspx

ITU-WHO Joint Statement: Unleashing information technology to defeat COVID-19. (2020b, April 20). Retrieved September 16, 2022, from https://www.who.int/news/item/20-04-2020-itu-who-joint-statement-unleashing-information-technology-to-defeat-covid-19

Jones, P., Wynn, M., Hillier, D., & Comfort, D. (2017, June 13). The Sustainable Development Goals and Information and Communication Technologies. *Indonesian Journal of Sustainability Accounting and Management*, *1*(1), 1. https://doi.org/10.28992/ijsam.v1i1.22

Treating diabetes takes more than insulin: Senegal mobile phone project promoting public health. (2017, November 1). Retrieved September 16, 2022, from https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/treating-diabetes-takes-more-than-insulin-senegal-mobile-phone-project-promoting-public-health

United Nations. (n.d.). *The Impact of Digital Technologies*. Retrieved September 16, 2022, from https://www.un.org/en/un75/impact-digital-technologies

ENSURING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Vanessa Gudino, Whittier College
MUNFW 72nd Session – GA Second Committee

Introduction

As the world continues to develop in various ways, energy represents both the source of progress and an obstacle that stands in its way. Not only is energy needed to power major developmental projects such as public transportation and new infrastructure, but it is fundamental to complete household tasks such as cooking. There are still 759 million people worldwide living without electricity, who are thereby deprived of the various opportunities it provides. According to Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UN Development Programme and Co-Chair of the High-level Dialogue, this disparity is "one of the most blatant examples of inequality in our world today."[1]

The most commonly used sources of energy throughout history have contributed to the rapid decline of the health of the environment. For over a century, many countries around the world have been relying on fossil fuels, including coal, oil, and natural gas, to provide electricity and power their machinery. The excessive use of fossil fuels has polluted the atmosphere with carbon and other greenhouse gasses (GHGs), which have contributed to the warming of the planet and have caused adverse health effects on all living things. Fossil fuel pollution is linked to a plethora of other pressing environmental issues, including ocean acidification, ocean warming, and sea-level rise, all of which set new records in 2021.[2] Throughout the world, it is low-income communities and communities of color that bear the heaviest burden of climate change.

Despite the hazardous effects of fossil fuels, their popular use persists due to the influence of wealthy fossil fuel companies. Fossil fuel companies, who would suffer greatly from a global acknowledgment of climate change and shift to renewable energy, have worked hard to earn the favor of politicians, convincing them that production of fossil fuels is vital for the economy. Through

[1] "Proposed global Roadmap shows how universal access to sustainable energy can be achieved by 2030." *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/desa/sustainable-energy-can-be-achieved-2030

[2] "Five ways to jump-start the renewable energy transition now." *Climate Action*, United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/raising-ambition/renewable-energy-transition?gclid=Cj0KCQjwof6WBhD4ARIsAOi65ahYSj1y-U0qDQz10ocuCaLKJIT-_CGvNvsDYpcfEm0EW13YPQv6q4kaAnHsEALw_wcB

lobbying and other techniques, fossil fuel companies and their financial accomplices have been able to not only avoid accountability for the harm they produce, but also receive tax breaks and subsidies from governments. Complacency with the actions of fossil fuel companies and an overreliance on their product has led to serious economic issues, such as a growth in inflation rates, which the world has been grappling with since late last year.

There is too much at risk when the world depends on a finite resource, such as oil or coal. With so many people around the world still living without a reliable source of energy, it's important to turn away from fossil fuels and focus on renewable energy. Solar, wind, and hydroelectric power represent energy sources that are reliable, affordable, sustainable, and modern. Everybody in the world should be able to easily access energy and use it in a way that is not detrimental to themselves and their environment.

Sustainable Development Goal 7

Included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is SDG 7, which calls to "ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all."[3] Achieving this goal would present countless new opportunities to billions of people throughout the world, through creating new economic opportunities and jobs. In addition, ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all will empower women, children, and youth, improve health and education, and create more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable communities. And, of course, gaining access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy will allow communities to be better protected from and more resilient against climate change.[4]

In 2013, the UN established the Energy Progress Report, formerly known as the Global Tracking Framework (GTF), which provides a global dashboard for the international community to register progress on the targets of SDG 7. The report receives inputs from the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group, which is made up of over 30 organizations throughout the world and supported by

[3] "7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all." *Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Sustainable Development*, United Nations, https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7
[4] Ibid.

various partners. The Energy Progress Report registers progress towards "enhanced international cooperation to facilitate access to clean and renewable energy by 2030," and progress on "the expansion of infrastructure and technology upgrade for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all developing countries." In addition, the Energy Progress Report assesses each country's progress on SDG 7 targets and provides a snapshot of how far the international community is from achieving SDG 7.[5] It is a joint report put together by the SDG Custodian Agencies - the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Roadmap for Progress

Key stakeholders gathered virtually over a five-day period, from June 21-25, 2021, for the Ministerial-Thematic Forums. Over 50 ministers from national governments and leaders from business, cities, civil society, and youth organizations, alongside other stakeholders, had the opportunity to showcase partnerships and solutions on each priority theme. The priority themes included Energy Access, Energy Transition, Enabling SDGs through inclusive, just energy transitions, Innovation, technology, and data, and Financing and investing. In addition, stakeholders were able to present their Energy Compacts, which consist of their own voluntary commitments and actions.[6] More than 25 Energy Compacts were previewed throughout the Forums, displaying a wide range of ambitious commitments. Following each Forum, the Technical Working Group co-led organization launched reports outlining the recommendations for action needed on the five priority themes.[7] These Forums drove action towards the High-Level Dialogue on Energy.

The High-Level Dialogue on Energy was held on 24 September 2021. Over 130 global leaders, including CEOs/multi-stakeholder representatives, executive heads of UN entities and international organizations, Heads of State and Government, and Ministers gathered to discuss and announce

[5] "About Us." *Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report*, https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/about-us
[6] "(5th meeting) Ministerial Thematic Forums for the High-Level Dialogue on Energy (21-25 June 2021)." *UN Web TV*, United Nations, https://media.un.org/en/asset/k13/k13ro5t93f
[7] "Ministerial-level Thematic Forums." *UN High-level Dialogue on Energy New York, September 2021*, United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/conferences/energy2021/Preparatory_Process

their formidable targets, transformational actions, and bold investments towards achieving the overarching goals of universal energy access and net-zero emissions. Over 150 Energy Compacts were submitted by governments and the private sector at this Dialogue, reflecting voluntary actions and finance commitments through the year 2030. New Compacts and partners will continue to be registered as time goes on, and progress will be monitored and tracked. Perhaps the most significant outcome of this Dialogue was the creation of the first-ever global roadmap for accelerated SDG 7 action. The global roadmap lays out a clear strategy to achieve a radical transformation of energy access and energy transition by 2030, with a set of practical and concrete milestones. More than 400 billion USD in new finance and investment from Energy Compacts will contribute to the completion of the global roadmap. These financial commitments are driven by a desire to provide hundreds of millions of people clean energy access and accelerate the energy transition process while creating clean jobs to leave no one behind.[8]

The official SDG 7 Global Roadmap was issued on 3 November 2021 by UN Secretary-General António Guterres. The Roadmap outlines five specific actions that are required to accelerate the achievement of SDG 7 in support of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

The first action is 'Closing the energy access gap.' The Roadmap emphasizes that 760 million people throughout the world are still living without electricity and that 2.6 billion people are still reliant on harmful fuels for cooking. In order to ensure access to clean, decarbonized energy for all by 2030, the Roadmap stresses that it must be considered an urgent political priority at all levels. It encourages those involved to invest in closing the energy gap by at least half by the year 2025, especially in the least developed countries.[9]

The second action is 'Rapidly transitioning to decarbonized energy systems.' The Roadmap reminds us of the 1.5°C goal of the Paris agreement, and that limiting temperature rise to that level would require a reduction of GHG emissions by 45% below 2010 levels by 2030 as well as reaching net zero emissions by 2050. The Roadmap points out that global energy efficiency improvements

[8] Ibid.
[9] United Nations, *Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change*, High-level Dialogue on Energy (24 September 2021).

must increase significantly as the deployment of renewable energy is lagging in several key areas, such as transport, industry, heating, and cooling. It specifically targets coal power, stating that the phase-out of coal power generation needs to be accelerated globally.[10]

The third action is 'Mobilizing adequate and predictable finance.' The Roadmap states that global investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy should be tripled by 2030. It brings focus to subsidies, stating that fossil fuel subsidies should be shifted to renewables. In addition, it argues that putting a price on carbon will be essential in accelerating the energy transition. The Roadmap emphasizes the importance of increased international cooperation in catalyzing the private and public investment and finance needed to accelerate the energy transition. Increased international cooperation is particularly crucial to aid in the energy transitions of developing countries and small island developing States. Among this cooperation, the priority must be on access to finance and the provision of technology transfer.[11]

The fourth action is 'Leaving no one behind on the path to a net zero future.' The Roadmap emphasizes the importance of the energy transition being equitable, inclusive, and just. It clarifies that each country's energy transition pathway will look different. The roadmap reminds us that the SDGs are meant to be integrated as a guiding framework for an energy transition through planning and policy. This guiding framework should serve to enhance international synergy, producing an all-encompassing energy transition that does not compromise the achievement of other SDGs and ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition process, particularly the most vulnerable- including children, displaced populations, elderly, indigenous peoples, women, and youth. The Roadmap argues that regardless of the energy transition likely producing an overall net gain in jobs, we must still invest in the reskilling of affected workers and economic diversification in order to ensure a truly just transition.[12]

The fifth action is 'Harnessing innovation technology and data.' The Roadmap emphasizes the importance of governments establishing a free, enabling environment and a clear direction for

[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid.

energy innovation and technology development/deployment to reach their full transformational potential. It reminds us that more investment is necessary to improve the collection, management, and application of important data, and to address the overall digital divide.[13]

The Global Roadmap provides two sets of milestones, for 2025 and 2030. These milestones link specific goals with numbers, so as to be able to measure progress and have a form of accountability.

On 18 May 2022, at the launch of the World Meteorological Organization's State of the Global Climate 2021 Report, Secretary-General Gutteres shared five ways to jump-start the renewable energy transition.[14] This list was compiled in an article on UN Climate Action, which covers many of the same topics as the Global Roadmap. The article also highlights additional details that are important to consider in the global energy transition process.

The Secretary-General suggests making renewable energy technology a global public good, available to all, not just the wealthy. The article highlights the importance of removing roadblocks to knowledge sharing and technological transfer, such as intellectual property rights barriers. It also points out the value of specific renewable energy technologies, such as battery storage systems, which allow energy from renewables to be absorbed, stored, and released whenever needed, thereby increasing energy system flexibility in communities. Technology like these battery storage systems and renewable generators have the ability to provide cheaper and more reliable electricity in isolated grids and off-grid communities in remote locations.[15]

Guterres also suggests improving global access to components and raw materials. The article highlights the importance of widespread access to renewable energy components and raw materials, such as the minerals used to produce wind turbines and the electricity networks needed for electric vehicles. It points out that international coordination is required to diversify and expand manufacturing capacity of these materials globally. Like the Global Roadmap, the article

[13] Ibid.
[14] "Secretary-General's video message on the launch of the World Meteorological Organization's State of the Global Climate 2021 Report." *Secretary-General*, United Nations, 18 May 2022.
[15] "Five ways to jump-start the renewable energy transition now." *Climate Action*, United Nations,https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/raising-ambition/renewable-energy-transition?gclid=Cj0KCQjwof6WBhD4ARIsAOi65ahYSj1y-U0qDQz10ocuCaLKJIT-_CGvNvsDYpcfEm0EW13YPQv6q4kaAnHsEALw_wcB

recommends investing in research, innovation, and people's skills training, but it also highlights the importance of building supply chains through sustainable practices that protect both cultures and ecosystems.[16]

The Secretary-General suggests leveling the playing field for renewable energy technologies. The article highlights the importance of reforming domestic policy frameworks to fast-track and streamline renewable energy projects. It suggests implementing policies and processes that would reduce market risk and incentivize investments in renewable technologies. It also suggests allocating space for large-scale build-outs in special 'Renewable Energy Zones.'[17]

In addition to these three steps, Secretary-General Guterres also suggests shifting subsidies from fossil fuels to renewable energy and tripling investments in renewable energy. These are also covered well in the Global Roadmap.

UN-Energy

"UN-Energy," a group of around 30 UN and international organizations, launched a Plan of Action Towards 2025 on 4 May 2022. This Plan of Action was a major step by the UN to catalyze the large-scale support and action necessary to achieve the transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions. To tackle the 2025 milestones set out in the Global Roadmap, the Plan of Action identifies several work areas:[18]

1. scaling up collective UN-Energy action to close the energy access gap and ensure just, inclusive energy transitions that leave no one behind;
2. catalyzing multi-stakeholder partnerships by scaling up Energy Compacts, including through the Action Network;
3. growing the momentum, by spearheading a global campaign for SDG 7 action;
4. leading by example, by greening UN-Energy organizations' operations;
5. convening an annual Global SDG 7 Action Forum on the margins of the UN General Assembly High-level Week in September;
6. informing global agenda-setting by providing analytical inputs and policy guidance to key intergovernmental processes;

[16] Ibid.
[17] Ibid.
[18] "UN organizations launch plan to catalyse action by 2025 on energy commitments including doubling renewables globally, electricity for 500 million people and clean cooking for one billion" *UNDP*, United Nations.

7. leveraging the power of data, digitalisation and visualization for strengthening monitoring, tracking, accountability and the communication of results.

An Energy Compact Network, which will also be supported by UN-Energy, was launched as well. This Energy Compact Network will match up governments seeking support in reaching their clean energy goals with governments, businesses, and other civil society partners that have pledged over $600 billion to support these commitments. The Network seeks to create opportunities for collaboration, and advance and expand coalitions that support green hydrogen and leadership positions and equal benefits for women. It is the only global platform thus far to bring together offers and requests for support on reaching SDG 7, from all stakeholders, and across various areas of energy transition (i.e. efficiency, energy access, and technology). The Network hopes to apply the billions of dollars in finance and investment committed in the form of Energy Compacts to on-the-ground action towards the urgent sustainable energy future.

The Energy Compact Network has already created partnerships that will bring forth great progress in the renewable energy transition. SEforALL, UNDP, and Husk Power Systems are partners who have answered Nigeria's call for support in achieving its Energy Compact commitment. The government of the Santiago Metropolitan Region of Chile, Enel, and Universidad de Desarollo are working together through a coalition Energy Compact to achieve the city's 2030 energy vision.

Conclusion

In discussing the triple interlinked crises of energy, finance, and food that arose from the war in Ukraine, Secretary-General Guterres recently stated, "we can maximize this moment to push for the transformational change our world needs…turn crisis into an opportunity." This optimism and charisma are what is needed to confront the various issues we are facing today. Issues such as climate change will only grow worse unless we follow through with our ideas, and turn plans into action. Within the past decade, many roadmaps have been laid out by the UN to catalyze the clean energy transition. The creation of clear, short-term goals and frequent conventions of world leaders are pushing a level of productivity that matches the vitality of the situation. With cooperation and

action, a future in which everybody around the world has access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy is possible.[19]

Questions to Consider

1. Does your country have any policies that support the renewable energy transition?
2. Has your country submitted an Energy Compact? If so, what are the details of your Energy Compact?
3. How might subsidies be shifted from fossil fuels to renewable energy in countries where fossil fuel companies have a heavy influence in politics?
4. What are some obstacles that might arise for developing countries seeking to join the renewable energy transition?
5. What are some measures the UN can take to ensure that countries are being held accountable for their commitments, particularly the most developed countries?

[19] Ibid.

Bibliography

"Proposed global Roadmap shows how universal access to sustainable energy can be achieved by 2030." *Department of Economic and Social Affairs*, United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/desa/sustainable-energy-can-be-achieved-2030

"Five ways to jump-start the renewable energy transition now." *Climate Action*, United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/raising-ambition/renewable-energy-transition?gclid=Cj0KCQjwof6WBhD4ARIsAOi65ahYSj1y-U0qDQz10ocuCaLKJIT-_CGvNvsDYpcfEm0EW13YPQv6q4kaAnHsEALw_wcB

"7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all." *Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Sustainable Development*, United Nations, https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7

"About Us." *Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report*, https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/about-us

"(5th meeting) Ministerial Thematic Forums for the High-Level Dialogue on Energy (21-25 June 2021)." *UN Web TV*, United Nations, https://media.un.org/en/asset/k13/k13ro5t93f

"Ministerial-level Thematic Forums." *UN High-level Dialogue on Energy New York, September 2021*, United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/conferences/energy2021/Preparatory_Process

United Nations, *Global Roadmap for Accelerated SDG7 Action in Support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change*, High-level Dialogue on Energy (24 September 2021).

"Secretary-General's video message on the launch of the World Meteorological Organization's State of the Global Climate 2021 Report." *Secretary-General*, United Nations, 18 May 2022.

"UN organizations launch plan to catalyse action by 2025 on energy commitments including doubling renewables globally, electricity for 500 million people and clean cooking for one billion" *UNDP*, United Nations.

United Nations General Assembly (2019). *Scope, modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage*, A/Res/74/131

World Bank (2020). *Human capital and climate action: Outcomes that deliver for people and planet*. https://blogs.worldbank.org/climatechange/human-capital-and-climate-ation-outcomes-deliver-people-and-planet

World Bank (2021). *Universal Health Coverage*. https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/universalhealthcoverage

World Health Organization (1948). *Constitution of the World Health Organization*. https://apps.who.int/gb/bd/PDF/bd47/EN/constitution-en.pdf?us=1

World Health Organization (2020). *Community-based health insurance*. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/community-based-health-insurance-2020

World Health Organization (2021). *Universal Health Coverage (UHC)*. https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/universal-health-coverage-(uhc)

World Health Organization (2022). Universal Health Coverage. https://www.who.int/health-topics/universal-health-coverage#tab=tab 1