

Energy for a sustainable future



Energy is at the forefront of the global agenda. It is central to the issues of climate change, economic and social development, global security, environmental protection and achieving the MDGs. The UN system has responded to the challenges and opportunities in the energy system with numerous programmes and projects.

To ensure a focused system-wide approach, CEB created UN-Energy was created in 2004 as an interagency mechanism for coordination on energy issues. In addition, the multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change (AGECC), established by the UN Secretary-General in June 2009 to provide recommendations on energy issues in the context of climate change in sustainable development, has called on the UN system and its Member States to commit themselves to two complementary goals: ensuring universal access to modern energy services by 2030; and reducing global energy intensity by 40 per cent by 2030.



**United Nations System
Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

UN system-wide response to climate change

Under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, the Chief Executives Board (CEB) brings together the leaders of 29 UN system organizations to jointly support Member States in meeting the global challenges faced by the international community.

In 2008, the CEB adopted the Climate Change Action Framework, a joint, action-oriented approach in line with the ongoing UNFCCC negotiating processes and the emerging agendas of the Parties of the Convention.

The UN system stands ready to support Member States in implementing their commitments. At COP 16 / CMP 6, it is presenting its ongoing work and practical tools available through side events, exhibits and by sharing a joint package with thematic information.

For more information on the CEB and its joint work on climate change, please visit:

<http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/>

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Objectives

To provide reliable, affordable, clean and sustainable energy access to the 2-3 billion people excluded from modern energy services. To promote and support the deployment of low-carbon energy technologies and systems worldwide, especially energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Activities

UN-Energy brings together 21 member agencies on the basis of shared responsibility, deep commitment, and stake in achieving sustainable development. UN-Energy is organised around three thematic clusters:

- Energy access
- Renewable energy
- Energy efficiency

The emphasis on collaboration in the UN System has been highly successful, with UN-Energy members starting, implementing or finalizing more than 40 programmes since 2008. During the same period UN-Energy and its members issued some 130 publications contributing to the knowledge base and addressing pressing energy challenges.

The UN system is also collectively involved in the implementation of the AGECC recommendations. The following actions have been initiated:

- A Global Campaign for Universal Energy Access;
- Designation of a Year of Energy Access;

Moving forward

The UN system is active in more than 140 countries around the world tackling the energy challenges in ever-expanding scales of engagement. Given this broad response to the energy challenges ahead, UN-Energy has an essential role to play in further supporting coherence and coordination. Dynamic partnerships based on comparative advantages, established both within the UN system and with external partners, provide an opportunity to adequately address the energy challenges.

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- Capacity building activities for energy planning and measurement;
- Support for the launch of Public Private Partnerships;
- Advancing Energy Efficiency as a priority tool for mitigating climate change.

Results

The financing, knowledge sharing, capacity development and technical assistance provided through the activities of the UN system in the energy area have all helped leverage private sector and government resources. They also have helped create the conditions necessary for long-term, stable investment in sustainable energy pathways.

The clear understanding that energy is an essential part of addressing the complexity of climate change, global security, and economic development, is underlined by the dramatic increased UN system prioritisation of energy-related programmes.