



Gender Indicators for Sustainable Energy: A Call to Action

Organizers: ENERGIA, ESMAP/World Bank, GWNET, IEA, IRENA, SEforALL, UNDESA, UNIDO, UNSD, UN Women, WHO.

Format: In Person with Live Webcasting

Connection Details: (TBC)

Date: July 17th, 2025

Time: 1:15 – 2:30 PM

Venue: UN Headquarters | Conference Room 7

WATCH LIVE [\[HERE\]](#)

High-Level Political Forum 2025

The 2025 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will take place from **Monday, 14th July to Wednesday, 23rd July 2025**. The forum will include a **three-day ministerial segment, running from July 21st to 23rd**, as part of ECOSOC's High-level Segment. This year's HLPF will center on the theme: *"Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind"*.

The 2025 HLPF will be a pivotal moment for gender equality, featuring the third and final in-depth review of SDG5 (achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls) as part of the ongoing follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. Coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, this year's HLPF is also expected to be a milestone for bold, transformative action by Member States and stakeholders to accelerate progress on SDG7 and its interlinkages with SDG5 over the next five years and beyond.

Event Description

As the world struggles to meet SDG7 targets, women's empowerment in sustainable energy offers a powerful, often overlooked solution that can unlock progress for everyone. However, progress has been too slow, especially for women, as highlighted in UN Women's [Gender Snapshot 2024](#).





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With the links between energy and gender equality well-recognized, gender equality is fundamental to a sustainable energy transition, making tracking progress through gender indicators essential. Nonetheless, SDG7 is one of only six SDGs that lack a dedicated gender indicator. When energy was first established as a standalone goal in 2015, the evidence for gender-specific indicators was limited. Today, however, with a growing body of data, the case for gender-responsive energy metrics is stronger than ever.

The UN recognized energy access as a key investment priority in 2023, aiming to revitalize SDG progress. Simultaneously, UN Women has long championed a gender-just energy transition as vital for advancing gender equality and women's rights. This aligns with a 2019 UN General Assembly resolution that underscored gender equality's crucial role in accelerating sustainable energy.

Achieving sustainable energy targets requires a paradigm shift that explicitly integrates gender equality. Gender data is vital for informing gender-responsive policies, shaping targeted project design, establishing measurable targets and tracking progress towards gender equality within the energy sector. Organizations like the IEA, IRENA, and the World Bank are already pioneering data collection, actively helping to close the gender data gap.

Under the guidance of the **UNDESA-led multi-stakeholder SDG7 Technical Advisory Group** and in line with its mandate to advance the implementation of SDG7 and its interlinkages with other Sustainable Development Goals, a coalition of partners, including energy custodian agencies¹, the co-conveners of the Gender & Energy Compact², and UN Women, developed the Policy Brief *"Gender Indicators for Sustainable Energy: A Call to Action."* This brief underscores the critical interlinkages between SDG5 and SDG7 and presents a clear path forward for adopting gender indicators in sustainable energy.

- **Side Event: Launch of the Policy Brief**

Against this theme, the organizers will host a Side Event at the HLPF 2025 to **mark the official launch of the Policy Brief**, advocating for gender indicators as a fundament for an inclusive, just, and effective energy transition. The session will bring together Member States and intergovernmental representatives, gender experts, civil society, and other key stakeholders and will serve as a platform to mobilize support, drive transformative policy actions, and strengthen commitments to accelerate gender equality in the energy sector.

¹ SDG7 Custodian Agencies include International Energy Agency (IEA), International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), World Bank/Energy Sector Management Assistance Program, World Health Organization (WHO), and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).

² Gender & Energy Compact include: ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy, Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNEN), and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).





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TENTATIVE AGENDA (75 Minute Session)

Session Format: Presentations and Panel Discussion (Webcasting)

AGENDA ITEM	PROPOSED SPEAKERS
Welcome Address (5 min)	Mr. Francesco La Camera , Director-General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
Opening Remarks (10 mins)	<p>H.E. Charlotta Schlyter, Ambassador for UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations</p> <p>Mr. Robert Bunbury, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations</p> <p>Mr. William Freyr Huntingdon-Williams, Counsellor and Legal Advisor, Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations</p>
Presentation (10 min)	<p>Fanny Missfeldt-Ringius, Manager, and Samantha Constant, Senior Gender Specialist, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) at the World Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the Policy Brief “Gender Indicators for Sustainable Energy: A call for Action”
Reflections from Key Stakeholders with Q&A (45 Min)	<p>Interventions responding to the Policy Brief from diverse perspectives Moderated by: Fanny Misfeldt-Ringius</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Rashid Ali Abdallah, Executive Director, African Energy Commission (AFREC) Ms. Mara Dolan, Coordinator of Programs and Policy, Women’s Environment and Development Organizations (WEDO) Ms. Laura Hohmann, SDG7 Youth Representative; Global Director at CDP Ms. Sheila Oparaocha, Director of ENERGIA Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy Mr. Papa Seck, Chief of UN Women’s Research and Data Division <p>Question 1: Impact and barriers to gender and energy data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the lack of gender-disaggregated energy data hindered policy and investment in sustainable energy in your experience?





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the primary barriers to collecting and using gender-responsive energy data in your experience? <p>Question 2: Current initiatives and drivers for gender and energy data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What specific initiatives or efforts has your nation or organization already undertaken to collect gender-disaggregated energy data? What ongoing collaborations are crucial for sustaining momentum in integrating gender data in sustainable energy? What mechanisms and incentives are most effective in prioritizing gender data in energy strategies? <p>Question 3: Future commitments and support for gender data adoption</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Member States Representatives: How can your country best support the integration of gender data into sustainable energy initiatives, and what specific types of assistance would you need to make this happen effectively? For International Organizations Representatives: What concrete commitments can your organization make to actively participate in advancing the integration of gender data in sustainable energy, ensuring a collaborative way forward?
<p>Call for Action & Closing Remarks (5 min)</p>	<p>Mr. Minoru Takada, Deputy Director, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)</p>





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Speaker Profiles



Francesco La Camera, Director-General, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)

Appointed in 2019, Mr. La Camera brings over 30 years of experience in climate, sustainability, and international cooperation. He leads IRENA's efforts to accelerate the global energy transition, fostering action-oriented strategies and partnerships with key UN agencies such as UNDP, UNFCCC, and the Green Climate Fund.



H.E. Charlotta Schlyter, Ambassador for UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

Ambassador Charlotta Schlyter is a seasoned Swedish diplomat with extensive experience in human rights and sustainable development. Over the course of her career, she has served with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Turkey, the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, and has held a number of senior positions within the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, including Ambassador to Bangladesh and Minister Counsellor in Thailand.



Mr. Robert Bunbury, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations

Mr. Bunbury Robert is the environment lead and coordinator for the 2nd committee of the UN General Assembly, at Canada's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York. He is a career diplomat on his fifth diplomatic posting.





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Fanny Missfeldt-Ringius, Practice Manager, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), World Bank.

Fanny brings over two decades of experience in global energy policy and operations. Since joining the World Bank in 2002, she has led energy programs across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia including assignments in Afghanistan, Nepal, and Bhutan, covering renewable energy, electrification, and regional transmission. Prior to the World Bank, she worked with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Royal Institute of International Affairs.



Samantha Constant, Senior Gender Specialist, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), World Bank.

Samantha leads the gender program within the access workstream. Her experience spans the Poverty & Equity Global Department, Energy & Extractives in MENA, and Social Protection and Jobs in Western and Central Africa. She supports gender equality in clean energy, equitable decarbonization, and energy access for women and marginalized groups.



Rashid Ali Abdallah, Executive Director, African Energy Commission (AFREC)

Mr. Abdallah has over 22 years of experience in the energy sector across national, regional, and continental levels. Since November 2018, he has served as Executive Director of AFREC, leading programs to advance Africa's energy transition and investment, aligned with AU Agenda 2063, the SDGs, and global climate goals. He previously served as Head of the Energy Division at the African Union's Department of Infrastructure and Energy.



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Mara Dolan, Coordinator of Programs and Policy, Women's Environment and Development Program (WEDO)

Mara Dolan is a feminist, organizer, student, and writer. At WEDO, a global advocacy organization at the intersection of gender, climate, and environmental justice, she works on policy research, advocacy, and coalition building within feminist and climate justice movements.



Ms. Laura Hohmann, SDG7 Youth Representative; Global Director at CDP

Laura is a climate and energy advocate with degrees in climate science and sustainability economics. She currently works at CDP and serves on the Junior Board of the Women's Energy Network NYC. Laura has contributed to gender and energy publications with SEforALL and is currently a fellow with the Clean Energy Leadership Institute.



Sheila Oparaocha, Director, ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy

Sheila Oparaocha is a recognized leader in gender and sustainable energy with over 21 years of experience. As Director of ENERGIA since 1999, she has led programs advancing women's entrepreneurship, gender mainstreaming in energy policy, and international advocacy. She oversees ENERGIA's multi-donor portfolio and provides strategic and technical leadership. Sheila co-chairs the SDG 7 Technical Advisory Group (UNDESA).



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Papa Alioune Seck, Chief of the Research and Data Section, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)



Papa Seck has been Chief Statistician at UN Women since 2009, leading its work on statistics and data, and contributing to key research including two editions of Progress of the World's Women. He coordinates UN Women's SDG monitoring and UN-wide efforts to strengthen gender indicators in the SDGs. He leads the flagship program Making Every Woman and Girl Count and also led the development of the EDGE program with the UN Statistics Division to create gender-sensitive measures of asset ownership and entrepreneurship.



Minoru Takada, Deputy Director, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Minoru Takada is Deputy Director at UNDESA, leading the Energy Team and heading the UN-Energy Secretariat. He previously advised the UN Secretary-General on energy and led UNDP's Sustainable Energy Programme. Trained as a nuclear engineer, his career shifted after working as a teacher and community organizer in an off-grid Ghana village.

