

Statement of Common Action
to initiate implementation of the provisions of the Hammamet Declaration
For adoption at the 6th International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development
Yerevan, Armenia, 29 September – 2 October 2015

I. BACKGROUND

This Statement of Common Action is proposed for adoption at the Forum as a way to render the *Hammamet Declaration*¹ operational with specific recommended actions and measures identified through analysis of best policy practices and national case studies. The statement represents a road map for relevant stakeholders around the globe to support implementation of the *Hammamet Declaration*. Progress on this action plan will be reviewed and assessed at future International Fora on Energy for Sustainable Development.

Energy is both a source of and a solution to many global problems. The achievement of sustainable development goals and enhancing quality of life largely depend on successful uptake of globally-coordinated measures to improve the energy system. If the world is to develop sustainably, it is essential to secure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy, improve energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as the carbon footprint of the energy sector.

The Statement of Common Action builds on the following principles:

- Energy is central to achieving sustainable development goals. Improving energy efficiency, particularly in buildings, industry and transport, will reconcile the world's growing need for energy services with the impact that energy resource development has on the natural resource base. Improving energy efficiency and energy productivity are two of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to combat climate change, improve air quality, and reduce energy costs for both businesses and consumers.
- Developing renewable energy is one means to reducing the carbon intensity of the energy sector, thereby diminishing the historic correlation between economic development and growth in greenhouse gas emissions. Renewable energy also can contribute to diversification of primary energy sources and improve cost effective energy access for communities in remote regions.
- A critical pre-condition for sustainable development is improving the provision of basic needs of societies, which requires sustainable provision of energy services and access to modern clean energy services for cooking and heating, lighting and communications, health and hygiene. Institutional barriers combined with investment scarcity have restrained energy access and should be addressed through comprehensive actions.

Acknowledging these principles and affirming that the objectives of energy sustainability are attainable, the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions signed the *Hammamet Declaration*, a call to accelerate the transition to a new, sustainable and fair energy

¹ The Fifth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development was held in Hammamet, Tunisia in 2014 and was global in nature, with all five United Nations Regional Commissions and the Government of Tunisia jointly organizing and delivering a successful event. Participants of the Fifth Forum supported the Hammamet Declaration – a Joint Statement of the Executive Secretaries of the United Nations Regional Commissions (http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/energy/se/pdfs/ee21/Forum_November_Tunisia/Joint_Statement_Fifth_International_Forum_Final_All.pdf).

system, tailored to both national policies and global needs in the post-2015 Development Agenda context. This Statement of Common Action was prepared in anticipation of the United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda on 25-27 September 2015 in New York. The Sustainable Development Goals of the document “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” include Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.

The *Hammamet Declaration* was conceived to address the major energy challenges found in all countries. While acknowledging individual national circumstances and development strategies, this declaration encourages countries to pursue coherent and integrated energy policies that tackle global energy problems, thereby accelerating the transition to an affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy system.

The state of the global economy and the economics of energy markets have prioritized short-term economic considerations, and geopolitics has moved energy security to the forefront of policy considerations. While sustainable development and better quality of life remain stated objectives, the costs of energy services are rising, and greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector are increasing. The rate of uptake of energy efficiency measures, the scale of renewable energy sources deployment and the provision of the access to energy services in many countries are insufficient and need acceleration. Given the current global socio-economic context, energy consumption trends are expected to worsen in the absence of measures to reduce energy intensities, rationalize energy use, optimize energy resources, and deploy new energy technologies and sustainable energy infrastructure.

The key targets of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative – energy efficiency, renewable energy and access to modern energy services – are interrelated, and a fully integrated, systematic approach to these issues may lead to increased uptake by countries.

PRIORITY ACTION AREAS

The following priority areas are proposed for action by the United Nations Regional Commissions and other international organizations, including notably the co-organizers of this Forum, over the next two years:

1. Assist member States upon request in developing national sustainable energy action plans that are aligned with their future energy needs and that are consistent with the *Hammamet Declaration*.
2. Collaborate with member States to improve their national energy statistics programmes including collecting, analyzing and publishing data related to the Global Tracking Framework.
3. Provide capacity building to member States in the action areas outlined in the *Hammamet Declaration*: Energy Market Reform, Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Energy Access, Energy Security, Finance and Investment, Technology, and Energy Data, Indicators and Analysis.
4. Encourage international dialogue for technological and knowledge exchange on lessons learned and best practices.
5. Develop internationally recognized minimum energy performance standards in all sectors.