

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2026

Under the auspices of ECOSOC

CONCEPT NOTE

From Call to Count: Gender-Responsive Energy Actions for the Final Mile

Organizers: Iceland, Kenya, ESMAP- The World Bank Group, ENERGIA, in collaboration with the Working Group on Gender Indicators in Sustainable Energy, and Co-conveners of the Gender and Energy Compact

Format: In Person with Live Webcasting

Date: 6th July 2026

Time: 11:30 AM- 12:45 PM

Venue: CR-9, UNHQ, New York

High-Level Political Forum 2026

The 2026 UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will take place from **Tuesday, 7 July, to Wednesday, 15 July 2026**. The forum will include a **three-day ministerial segment, running from 13 July to 15 July 2026**, as part of ECOSOC's High-level Segment. This year's HLPF will center on the theme: *"Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for a sustainable future for all"*.

The 2026 HLPF will be a pivotal moment for energy access for all, featuring the third and most probably the final in-depth review of SDG 7 (Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all) as part of the ongoing follow-up to the 2030 Agenda. This year's HLPF is also expected to be a milestone for bold, transformative action by Member States and stakeholders to accelerate progress on SDG 7 and its interlinkages over the next four years and beyond. 36 countries will also be presenting their Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Side-event Description

Despite growing global commitments, the energy transition remains deeply gendered, with benefits and burdens unevenly distributed. Energy poverty continues to disproportionately affect women and girls: on the current trajectory, 321 million women could still lack access to electricity by 2030, while 896 million women may remain without access to clean cooking fuels and technologies¹. These disparities extend far beyond energy access, constraining health outcomes, social empowerment, educational opportunities, and full participation in economic development.

¹ *Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2025*. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).



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Climate change and the ongoing geopolitical crises have further intensified these inequalities. Rising fuel costs, supply disruptions, and energy insecurity have reversed gains in access to clean fuels in several regions, forcing households to revert to traditional and polluting energy sources. These pressures are compounded by structural inequalities, with women facing greater constraints in income, asset ownership, and decision-making power. Yet, despite the scale and urgency of these challenges, the absence of gender-disaggregated energy data means that these disparities remain largely invisible in the policy frameworks, investment decisions, and accountability systems that shape the global energy transition.

In this context, the 2025 High-Level Political Forum marked an important step forward in advancing the gender and energy agenda. The side event, *“Gender Indicators for Sustainable Energy: A Call to Action,”* highlighted a critical gap within the Sustainable Development Goals framework, namely, the lack of dedicated gender indicators under SDG 7. Supported by Member States and driven by a dedicated multistakeholder Working Group, including the SDG 7 custodian agencies, UN Women, and co-convenors of the Gender and Energy Compact, the event called for the strengthening of gender-responsive data systems and more robust, evidence-based policymaking. It also signaled growing political and institutional momentum to integrate gender equality more systematically into energy planning, monitoring, and reporting.

Against this background, as SDG 7 enters its third and final in-depth review, this side event provides a critical opportunity to inform intergovernmental discussions at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum.

Key Expected Outcomes

- Presentation of findings from the systematic mapping of gender indicators within SDG 7 reporting frameworks, undertaken by the Working Group on Gender Indicators in Sustainable Energy.
- Documentation of good practices and lessons learned from Member States and regional actors on strengthening gender-disaggregated energy data collection and use.
- Strengthened momentum for gender-responsive language and commitments in the 2026 Ministerial Declaration, ensuring greater visibility of gender equality across SDG 7 discussions and related energy policy priorities.



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TENTATIVE AGENDA (75 Minute Session)

Session Format: Presentations and Panel Discussion

Moderated by: Ms. Fanny Missfeldt-Ringius, Practice Manager, Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), World Bank Group

	AGENDA ITEM	PROPOSED SPEAKERS
11:30 (4 min)	Welcome Remarks From Conversation to Evidence: Moving ahead from “Gender Indicators for Sustainable Energy: A Call to Action”	Delivered by Fanny Missfeldt-Ringius , Practice Manager, ESMAP, World Bank Group
11:34 (8 min)	Opening Remarks	H.E. Ms. Anna Jóhannsdóttir , Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations Mr Paul Mbuthi , Consultant, Ministry of Energy and Petroleum, Government of Kenya
11:42 (10 min)	Global Presentation of Key Findings: Country mapping of Gender Indicators for Sustainable Energy Initiative	Dr. Sheila Oparaocha , Director, ENERGIA-International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy
11:52 (8 min)	Regional Evidence: Research and data-driven insights from the African and Latin American contexts	Representatives from: Mr. Samson Bel-Aube Nougbohoue, Head of Energy Information System & Statistics Division, The African Energy Commission (AFREC) - Latin American and Caribbean Energy Organization (OLACDE)



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		<u>Guiding Questions for Reflection:</u> What regional initiatives are underway to strengthen the collection and use of gender-disaggregated energy data, and how can these efforts be scaled to advance gender-responsive energy planning and SDG 7 implementation through 2030 and beyond?
12:00 (30 min)	Interventions from the floor: Championing Gender in the Energy Framework	<i>With SDG 7 undergoing its final in-depth review before 2030, this segment calls on Member States to move from engagement to commitment.</i> Interventions by: Norway, Sierra Leone, Canada, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Sweden <u>Guiding Questions for Reflection:</u> How can Member States leverage gender-disaggregated data and evidence to better inform national energy priorities and commitments, and what concrete actions will they take at the 2026 HLPF to close the gender data gap in the energy sector?
12:30 (12 min)	Stakeholder Intervention from the floor	Interventions from: • UNSD • UN Women <u>Guiding Questions for Reflection:</u> What are the key gaps in the current global indicator framework on energy and gender, and what steps are needed to strengthen these indicators to better support SDG 7 monitoring and implementation? Interventions from: • Women's Major Group- WEDO • Ms. Erin Tansey, Program Director, Sustainable Inclusive Economies International Development Research Centre • Youth Major Group-Ms. Hadiza Abdulmumini Global Focal Point, SDG7 Youth Constituency <u>Guiding Questions for Reflection:</u>



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		How can women's groups, youth organizations, strengthen the generation and use of gender-disaggregated energy data, while advocating for concrete commitments to advance gender-responsive energy policies and reporting at the 2026 HLPF?
12:42 (3 min)	Closing Remarks Way forward: UN Energy Plan of Action towards 2030 and beyond.	Mr. Minoru Takada, Deputy Director, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
12:45	Close of Event	



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