HIGH LEVEL CONVENTION TO ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

New York City’s Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice

Convening 200 stakeholders at Energy Action Forum

On the 22nd of September 2019, heads of states and governments, CEOs from the private sector, UN representatives and representatives from international organizations convened during the Energy Action Forum to demonstrate a leap in collective effort by raising the ambitions to accelerate the green energy transition. All participants were determined to fight the climate crisis by efforts set to radically decrease CO2-emission in order to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement and at the same time secure sustainable energy to support economic growth and remove energy poverty in line with SDG7.

The Energy Action Forum was hosted by the appointed co-leads of the Energy Transition Track, Denmark and Ethiopia, with SEforALL and in collaboration with the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit Team.

Key drivers and launch of new initiatives to accelerate the energy transition

At the action-oriented forum, 200 leading key stakeholders discussed how to push the agenda forward; how to take to scale the most transformative solutions to accelerate energy transition and what it takes to overcome barriers.

Amongst the conclusions and announced initiatives at the Energy Action Forum, the following attained extensive support:

1. Heads of state and government of Ethiopia, Denmark, Palau and Colombia all emphasized the urgent need for action and leadership highlighting the need of cross-sectoral and cross-country partnerships. As an example, the Prime Minister of Denmark emphasized the need for urgent leadership; for public–private partnerships, setting framework conditions conducive to private investments and the business opportunities offered by the Paris agreement and the SDGs.

2. Energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy access were agreed to be the key areas within which to urgently scale initiatives and where immediate action needs to be taken.

3. The Powering Past Coal Alliance, (PPCA) and need for divestment in fossil fuel was emphasized and Germany and Slovakia as well as several subnational actors officially joined PPCA at the Energy Action Forum.

4. Providing enabling policies, attracting private investments and super-charging breakthrough technologies was discussed as key drivers to accelerate the energy transition.
5. Supported by SEforALL, GCF, IRENA and UNDP the Climate investment Platform was officially launched as a global public good to help facilitate streamlined support to developing countries and emerging economies to meet climate ambitions.

Continuing conversations at the UN Climate Action Summit

The Energy Action Forum is part of the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit, which aims to showcase a leap in collective global and national political ambition and demonstrate leadership to implement the Paris Agreement. Energy transition will be one of the most important and difficult challenges to overcome, but as the EAF demonstrated - we already know how to do it. Governments, businesses, finance institutions, international organizations! and civil society urgently need to come together in innovative partnerships to spearhead transformative change. The Energy Action Forum provided a first platform to do just that.

About the Energy Transition track coalition

UN Energy Transition Track was co-led by Denmark and Ethiopia supported by Sustainable Energy for All, and Palau, Italy, Indonesia, Colombia, Morocco, International Energy Agency, International Renewable Energy Agency, and ESMAP of the World Bank were members of the Energy Transition coalition.