Committee: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

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Topic: Analyzing alternatives and access to affordable, reliable, sustainable forms of modern energy

I. INTRODUCTION

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, it is the most complex subsidiary body. It was first established in 1945, with the purpose of being the UN's main venue for discussion of international, economic and social issues. The committee consists of 54 members and most of ECOSOC's work is done through functional commissions. It works with topics of human rights, narcotics, population, social development, statistics, women's status, science, technology and more. ECOSOC is in charge of making reports regarding international economic, social, cultural, educational, and health matters. As well as making recommendations of any such matters to the General Assembly, members of the UN, and/or the concerned specialized agencies.

According to the topic at hand, there are some concepts that must be comprehended in order to have a better debate. Modern energy can be understood as the type of energy that has commercialized market channels. It being affordable means that it is easily accessible regardless of people's economic situation. On the other hand, reliability stands for something that is trustworthy. Diving more into the topic itself, electrification is the process of making a system operate using electricity when it did not before. Next, we have that a high-level political forum is a programme that seeks to accelerate the recovery from the coronavirus disease and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs at all levels. It is of utmost importance to understand that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are goals stated in 2015 by the UN with the purpose of stepping forward globalization.

One of the two main current problems regarding energy is the hundreds of millions of people who lack modern energy. Which is essential for every person and all daily activities: provision of clean water, sanitation, healthcare and the key to the development of agriculture, business and human development. And all of these aspects deteriorate their quality whenever clean, modern energy is not reached.

The United Nations created a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) that seeks to enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean research and technology by 2030. Voluntary national reviews (VNR), the team that oversees the process of SDG's concluded that: "ensuring access to affordable, reliable and modern energy for all has come one step closer due to recent progress in electrification, particularly in Least Developed Countries (LDC's), and improvements in industrial energy efficiency. However, national priorities and policy ambitions still need to be strengthened to put the world on track to meet the energy targets for 2030" (UN Voluntary National Reviews, 2018). The strategies for accomplishing SDG7 must be executed nationally; VNR calls upon countries all around the world to develop nationally well-defined energy smart strategies, and the countries that had already set strategies, to turn them into more ambitious.

The ECOSOC Ministerial Declaration of the 2018 High-level Political Forum calls upon Governments and all stakeholders to promote renewable energy, especially in end-use sectors such as transport, buildings, agriculture and industry. In order to achieve globalization and affordable sustainable and reliable forms of energy for everyone. This team also calls upon Governments and all stakeholders to accelerate the pace of energy overall, including all subtypes of economy, (cooling and district heating, rationalizing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and promoting innovation and investments in energy efficiency). This is being gradually gotten through well-designed, evidenced policies (codes, energy performance standards and labels, fuel economy requirements and energy tariffs).

In a 2021 meeting, High-level Dialogue on Energy stated that the best way for accomplishing SDG7 is to accelerate the process. The resolution resulted in providing a guide for collective action on energy across sectors; the triggering of around 200 Energy Compacts with voluntary commitments worth around us$600 billion targeted into SDG 7. High-level

Political Forum (HLPF) is a platform that oversees and gives follow-ups to the SDG. Yearly, it oversees ECOSOC's auspices.

II. HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

1940: The world's first megawatt-scale wind turbine was installed in Vermont, USA.

June 5, 1972: United Nations conference in Stockholm recognizes the importance of energy in sustainable development and environmental protection.

May 9, 1992: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted, establishing an international treaty for the promotion of sustainable energy solutions.

December 11, 1997: The Kyoto Protocol includes provisions for promoting renewable energy, the protocol was negotiated under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

July 8, 2006: The G8 Gleneagles Summit highlights the need for increased access to modern energy services, particularly in developing countries, as a means of poverty alleviation.

December 18, 2009: COP15 was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The conference aimed to secure a global agreement on climate change discussions emphasizing the role of renewable energy.

September 25, 2015: The United Nations launches the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with SDG 7 specifically targeting access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

June 2018: Reinforcement of Tracking SDG7 through the report "The Energy Progress

Report 2018" which calls upon countries to boost their energy efficiency strategies.

July 9, 2018: The Ministerial Declaration of the 2018 High-level Political Forum calls upon the Government and all stakeholders to make clean-cooking solutions a priority.

October 8, 2018: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a special report emphasizing the urgent need to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

September 24, 2021: More than 130 leaders, including Heads of State and Government, Ministers, executive heads of UN entities and international organizations, CEOs and other multi-stakeholder representatives, enrolled in the High-level Dialogue on Energy in order to discuss possible solutions for enabling universal access to energy and net-zero emissions. As a step towards achieving it, during the meeting, there was a donation of more than US$400 billion.

III. CURRENT HAPPENINGS

Currently, the main problem to achieve global energy is overpopulation. As the population grows, so does the demand for energy in order to make businesses, homes and communities power. Currently the last report of the IEA, an energy progress document written in 2022 regarding the track of SDG number 7 mentions how access to electricity has increased over the past decade, with the share of the global population having access to electricity rising from 83% in 2010 to 91% in 2020. However, progress in electrification has slowed down due to challenges in reaching remote and underserved populations, as well as the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, "Meeting the 2030 target requires increasing the number of new connections to 100 million a year" (IEA, 2022).

In terminology, renewable energy implies the use of renewable energy sources for electricity, heat, and transport and even though renewable energy consumption did continue to grow through the pandemic,there is a need for a significant increase in the share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption. Rising prices and trade restrictions pose challenges to renewable energy projects, especially in countries with limited access. To achieve the goal of net zero energy emissions by 2050, renewable shares should surpass 30% of TFEC by 2030.

Efforts have been made to improve data quality through national and international cooperation and enhanced statistical capacity. However, the pandemic has disrupted progress, highlighting the need for increased investment in quality statistics, particularly in developing countries. Comprehensive data collection, end-user surveys, and quality-assurance frameworks are essential for informed energy policies and strategies to leave no one behind

IV. KEY POINTS

- **Implementation and work towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 7 in a national and transnational way**.

This is one of the most important points to be discussed since the goal of the SDG 7 is to achieve clean and affordable energy and make it accessible to all, which is highly related to the topic. The implementation of the SDG in a national way explains how much has been worked, by each country, towards the achievement of SDG 7.

- **Accelerating the energy transition towards the net-zero emissions by 2050**

In order to achieve clean, modern, sustainable and renewable energy, one of the main steps to take is to end the actions that generate greenhouse gasses and replace them with the ones that generate net-zero emissions in order to avoid global warming.

- **Increase access to affordable and reliable sources of energy adapted to each country's perspective**

This point is co-related to the previous ones. Countries must apply actions that generate net-zero emissions, and must be accessible for every person to reach it. The effect is a step forward to globalization.

- **Regulatory frameworks that support the adoption of new alternatives of sustainable energy**

There are United Nations specialized teams that are in charge of overseeing the updates of countries regarding SDG's. This kind of framework is one per country. Their main duty is to be a channel from the country to the UN in order to get constant data about the updates of the problem and what actions are being solved.

V. UN ACTIONS

The Global Agenda for Accelerated SDG7 Action states: "scaling up of investments in energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy, supported by well-designed, evidence-based policies, as well as by regional, national and local action plans". The team acknowledges the great efforts of countries all around do, however it is not enough in order to beat the current problem for the reason that the "rate of global energy efficiency progress falls far short of the annual rate of 2.7% needed between now and 2030".

In 2021, UN-Energy called upon the whole UN system, Member States, the private sector as well as the society in order to form an alliance with the purpose of carrying out green economics through a single energy transition that provides universal clean energy access. This organization has a purpose: 1. providing to 1 billion people the access to clean safe cooking solutions all over the world. 2. In 100 countries, turn to a 100% both the modern renewables capacity and the renewables-based power targets. 3. Enable the creation of 30 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency. 4. Redirect fossil fuel subsidies towards clean energy. 5. End financing for modern coal power plants. 6. Reduce by 33% the global greenhouse gas emissions by 2025. 7. Double the annual clean energy investment globally in comparison to the current level. 8. Raise energy access investment to US$40 billions of which 50%is targeted to the Least Developed Countries.

The High-level dialogue on energy, a UN agency that seeks the implementation of the energy related goals of the 2030 Agenda, carried out a roadmap (action plan) to accomplish the SDG7 for 2030.

1. **Closing the energy access gap—** The main goal is to utterly beat this problem by closing every single access gap; the target the UN proposed was to halve by 2025 in developed countries though. However, to utterly beat up this problem is necessary to leave no one behind.

2. **Use decarbonized energy systems—** Limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees requires the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 45 per cent below 2010 levels by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050. If not, the Paris Agreement will fall down. Global energy efficiency improvements must increase significantly, through the reconsideration of ways of transporting, heating and cooling, as well as the industry sectors.
3. **Mobilize adequate and predictable finance—** Global investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency should be tripled towards 2030. This might be carried out through officially selling carbon, in order to accelerate the energy transition as well as switching fossil fuel subsidies to renewable ones. International cooperation is required for public and private finance and investment. Especially for developing countries.
4. **Harness innovation, technology and data—** More investment is required in improving the collection, management and application of data and in addressing the digital divide. International cooperation should be enhanced to promote technology transfer to developing countries. This might be carried out through the government setting clear strategies in regard to the operational systems.

In order to make sure these targets turn and work effectively, the roadmap (action plan) includes two sets of milestones both for 2025 and 2030 to gradually stay tuned about the progress regarding SDG7. These were made in 2018.

2025: 1. 500 million more people have gained access to electricity. 2. 1 billion more people have gained access to clean cooking solutions. 3. Annual investment in access to electricity increased to US$ 35 billion and in access to clean cooking increased to US$ 25 billion. 4. 100% increase in modern renewables capacity globally. 5. Double annual investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency globally. 6. No new coal power plans in the pipeline after 2021. 7. Fossil fuel consumption subsidies re-directed towards renewable energy and energy efficiency. 8. 30 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency.

2030: 1. Universal access to electricity and clean cooking solutions. 2. Triple global renewable power capacity. 3. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency. 4.

Triple annual investment for renewable energy and energy efficiency globally. 5. Phase out coal power plans within the OECD by 2030 and globally by 2040. 6. 60 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency. 7. Universal access to electricity in all healthcare facilities and all schools worldwide.

All heads committed to this agreement must strengthen their efforts in order to turn global energy into real by forming transformational partnerships.

VI. BLOCK ANALYSIS

Asia and the Pacific Group

Asia has the advantages of being financially supported in a legal and constant way through the rollout of grid connections and distributed electricity access solutions. “Even though the pandemic, the data show that 97% of the Asian population, by 2020, had access to electricity. By 2022, 95% of households will have gotten electricity; more than 70%, clean cooking solutions: liquefied petroleum gas and improvised cook stoves.

However, in the Southeast region, the shares remain low.” (IEA, 2022) Though, the governments are trying to clamp down on this through setting long-term plans, for instance, the promises of net-zero emissions and the usage of SDS (Sustainable Development Scenario) maps. Some great actions have been the Saubhagya scheme in India. The implementation of the STEPS (Stated Policies Scenario) are useful to foresee and prevent further, possible scenarios.

European group

In the whole country, every country, more than the “76.25% of the populations, have access to energy according to the World Bank Global Electrification Database from "Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report" led jointly by the custodian agencies: the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank and the World Health Organization (WHO) by 2020. The data showed all the countries, but Bulgaria, their whole population had access to energy; Bulgaria having 99.7%” (IEA, 2022).

African group

In the Africa case, the situation is devastating and percentages of the population with access to electricity are extremely low compared to other situations, for instance the Asian one. The regions within here have the biggest access deficit. “In Niger, 6% of citizens in an urban setting have access to electricity, compared to 5.8% in a rural setting; while the ratios are, in the case of Mali, 93% and 20%, respectively; in Benin, 71% and 18%; in Guinea, 82% and 7%; in Namibia, 77% and 29%; in Senegal, 88% and 38%; in Togo, 87% and 19%.” (Sustainable development United Nations, 2018).

The situation potentially decreased as a result of actions taken mainly by the East African countries. Mali and Niger have made great progress regarding the expansion of energy nationally, both a plan and a programme. On the other hand, as a minority, there are some countries, such as Cabo Verde, that are widely close to achieving full access.

From 2000 to 2013 tripled from 8 million to almost 24 million, it got to be tripled again from 2014 to 2019. The number of people without electricity decreased from 613 million in 2013 to 572 million in 2019. Last thing mainly happens in countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana and Ethiopia, meanwhile more than 40% of the Sub-Saharan African countries do not have official do not have official sources of electricity.

American group

The USA has one of the highest levels of people with energy all around the world: 100% of them having access to electricity and clean cooking. The main problem this specific country has is the lack of renewable energy it implements; 11%.

“Mexico, like its northern neighbors, relies heavily on hydropower, but also has an abundance of sun and wind, and an active geological landscape the country is working to incorporate in its renewables portfolio. Mexico has the world’s sixth-largest installed capacity for geothermal power, at 951 MW, surpassed only by the US, the Philippines, Indonesia, Kenya and New Zealand. IRENA analysis shows that Mexico could reach 4.5 gigawatts of capacity by 2030." (Anonymous reports of IRENA, 2022).

In the same situation, there is Canada, having 63% of their electricity accounts into hydropower accounts. North America developed, and closed to be it, work closely with the IRENA towards the achieving of renewable energy potentials. From 2023, and forward, Latin America would have, for the first time, Special Reports. These reports would be led by the World Energy Outlook. These reports' purpose would be to explore the area in order to analyze it and constantly contribute to fulfill the emerging energy needs and how to cost-effectively energize growing economies while meeting climate goals.

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VII. RECOMMENDED SOURCES

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