

Fifteenth session of the IRENA Assembly

Meeting SDG7 and climate ambitions through renewables-based clean cooking

11 January 2025, 11:00 - 12.30 GST

Background

The latest SDG7 progress report indicates that at the current rate of progress, 1.8 billion people will remain without access to clean cooking in 2030. In addition to significant health and other negative development outcomes, this lack of progress has significant impacts on climate. Climate-related emissions from cooking with polluting fuels account for 2 percent of global emissions, equivalent to those from the aviation industry; at 1.5 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year. In addition to greenhouse gases, cooking with solid fuels contributes 58% of global black carbon emissions. These emissions and their impacts occur despite the existence of technologies and proven business models that can deliver clean cooking solutions to the 2.1 billion people that currently lack access. Amongst the challenges to progress is lack of finance, and lack of policies and commitment to address the challenge.

A recent report by IRENA on renewables-based electric cooking nonetheless highlights important progress on political commitment towards clean cooking in some countries. The study, which entailed a review of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Strategies of 185 countries, found African countries had the highest rates of inclusion of electric and clean cooking in their NDCs (73%).

These ambitions were however not accompanied by adequate corresponding measures for achieving them. For instance, there is little consideration of the full potential of renewables (e.g. bioenergy-based clean cooking) in financing; and the ambitions were not high enough to achieve the net zero targets. Furthermore, several countries had not yet considered clean cooking as part of their climate ambitions and continue to lag in progressing towards their full potential.

Objectives

- Showcase successful examples of integration of renewables-based clean cooking into the climate agenda such as clean cooking in NDCs and climate targets in National Clean Cooking strategies
- Discuss the approaches needed to achieve cross-sectoral collaboration in energy access and climate space; and meet the twin goals of SDG7 and climate actions
- Explore the role of climate finance in enabling developing countries to achieve their clean cooking targets in NDCs and National Clean Cooking strategies.

Guiding Questions

- How have countries benefited by aligning their clean cooking targets with climate targets? How is renewable based clean cooking reflected in those targets?
- How can countries that are yet to include clean cooking in their NDCs be supported in achieving this? What role can development partners play in this?
- How can countries move beyond target setting to actual implementation? What examples and best practices can we draw from?
- What role has carbon finance played in the clean cooking transition, and how can the funds be made more accessible to countries that are lagging in clean cooking?

Associated Publications

[Renewables-based electric cooking: Climate commitments and finance](#)

[Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2024](#)

[Clean cooking: What new global pledge means for climate, nature, and gender goals - Carbon Brief](#)

[World Energy Transitions Outlook](#)

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