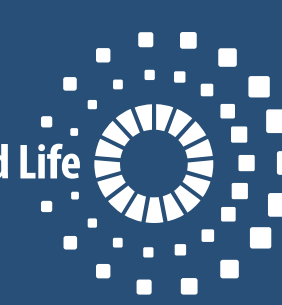




Republic of North Macedonia
Ministry of Energy, Mining
and Mineral Resources



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



14th International Forum on
**ENERGY FOR
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

Skopje Declaration

of the Fourteenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development

Skopje, North Macedonia, 30 October 2025

The United Nations is working to help Member States secure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy, in line with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7), and the Paris Agreement. Achieving these outcomes is essential for sustainable development and for addressing the climate emergency.

However, significant barriers impede our collective ambition. The state of the global economy, energy market volatility, and shifting geopolitics have elevated energy security to the forefront of national and regional policy discussions. While the just energy transition and improved quality of life remain global objectives, many countries face insufficient or declining access to energy services, rising energy costs, and persistent growth in greenhouse gas emissions.

The Fourteenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (IFESD-14) held in Skopje, North Macedonia from 28–30 October 2025 under the theme “From Goals to Action: Powering the Future with Sustainable Energy”, provided a crucial platform for addressing these challenges. The IFESD-14 is organized by the Ministry of Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources of the Republic of North Macedonia, UNDP North Macedonia, and the five United Nations Regional Commissions: ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, and ESCWA. The Forum convened around 500 representatives from governments, international organizations, business community, financial institutions, academia, civil society, and experts, with participants from more than 60 countries.

The participants of IFESD-14 affirm that determined actions to ensure energy sustainability, equity, and resilience must be at the forefront of global and regional policymaking.

We, the participants of IFESD-14, recognize that the global energy sector is at a critical juncture. New developments, geopolitical shifts, technological breakthroughs, impacts on social equity, and environmental pressures require innovative, comprehensive, and collaborative action. We, therefore, call on Governments of Member States and all stakeholders in the field of energy to undertake the following:

Geopolitics of Energy and Energy Security

- Acknowledging that energy security is now a central driver of national energy policy, countries should try reducing exposure to volatile global markets by diversifying supply, localizing manufacturing of clean energy technologies, and ensuring resilient critical raw material supply chains.
- Foster international cooperation to guarantee the stable and secure flow of energy resources and critical minerals while accelerating the transition to low-carbon energy systems.
- Advance regional energy connectivity, including cross-border infrastructure, to optimize resource use and enhance mutual security.

New Developments in the Energy Sector

- Embrace rapid advancements in digitalization, artificial intelligence (AI), and smart technologies to optimize grid operations, supply chains, and energy efficiency across all sectors.
- Promote the development of a diverse portfolio of cleaner energy technologies – including solar, wind, hydro, advanced storage, bioenergy, geothermal, low-carbon hydrogen, and advanced small modular reactors – to create flexible and resilient energy systems.
- Encourage circular economy approaches for clean energy technologies, including recycling and reuse of batteries, solar panels, and wind turbine components, to minimize waste and new dependencies.
- Promote productive development by strengthening regional energy-related value chains, building local capacity, and generating quality jobs through sustainable energy initiatives.

Affordability and Access

- Ensure that energy affordability remains a cornerstone of the energy transition by protecting low-income households and small businesses from price shocks and energy poverty.

- Design subsidy reforms and social protection measures that balance fiscal responsibility with equity, ensuring that no one is left behind in the transition.
- Increase the provision of access to clean cooking fuels and technologies for underserved populations, leveraging cleaner technologies such as electric cooking.
- Expand decentralized and off-grid solutions, particularly for rural, remote, and vulnerable communities, to secure universal access to modern energy services.

Energy Planning and System Integration

- Integrate energy planning at national and regional levels, with energy efficiency recognized as a strategic priority and the ‘first fuel’ in meeting future demand.
- Embed renewable energy spatial planning into land-use, urban development, and infrastructure policies, ensuring that deployment minimizes environmental impacts and maximizes social acceptance.
- Simplify and accelerate permitting procedures for sustainable energy, grid, and storage projects, while safeguarding transparency and public participation.
- Promote cross-sectoral integration of electricity, heating, cooling, transport, and industry to optimize renewable energy uptake and system flexibility.

Energy Efficiency and Industrial Transformation

- Treat energy efficiency as the ‘first fuel,’ scaling up investments across housing, transport, cities, and especially industry, which remains the largest consumer of energy.
- Encourage the uptake of low-carbon industrial practices, electrification of processes, and deployment of clean heat and hydrogen solutions in hard-to-abate sectors.
- Harness digital technologies and performance standards to drive industrial efficiency while supporting competitiveness and innovation.

New Challenges for Energy

- Address the unprecedented growth in electricity demand driven by digitalization, AI, and electrification by investing in grid modernization, storage, and demand-side flexibility.
- Develop policy and regulatory frameworks that ensure affordability, inclusivity, and equity in the face of rising energy costs.
- Mobilize public and private capital through innovative mechanisms – green bonds, blended finance, carbon markets, and public-private partnerships – to close the trillions-dollar investment gap.

Sustainable Development, Nature-Based Solutions, and Innovation

- Integrate nature-based solutions into energy planning, including sustainable biomass, ecosystem restoration, and green infrastructure that support resilience and biodiversity.
- Strengthen analysis of the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus to inform holistic, data-driven policy approaches.
- Invest in education, training, and reskilling programmes to prepare the workforce for the new energy economy and ensure a just transition.
- Foster platforms for sharing knowledge, data, and best practices across regions to accelerate innovation and coordinated action towards global energy and climate goals.

We, the participants of IFESD-14, urge governments, financial institutions, civil society, and business community to act decisively and collaboratively. The path toward sustainable, secure, affordable, and inclusive energy is clear. What is required now is political will, global solidarity, and commitment to scale and speed.

Together, we can transform the global energy system into one that safeguards our climate, drives innovation, ensures affordability, and delivers prosperity for all.

In the name of all participants, signed by

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