

II. Sustainable Energy for Development

According to a report by the International Energy Agency, 675 million people worldwide lack access to electricity and 80% of this group live in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Without access to electricity, development is exponentially harder, especially for developing and low-income countries to progress as it affects many factors of transportation, education, and many more. The global energy deficient only continues to worsen as energy consumption increases with the creation and utilization of new technologies or burgeoning industries; power usage has increased from 158,097 terawatt hours in 2012 to 178,899 terawatt hours in 2022, outpacing generation of primary electricity sources. In a report about the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is projected that 679 million people will be without access to electricity by 2030. Furthermore, renewable and sustainable energy only accounts for 18% of primary energy consumption. While transitioning the sustainable energy methods is financially costly in comparison to fossil fuel methods, the costs of not following through is worse. The Kingdom of Denmark expresses its concern that the issues must be tackled as they not only affect the citizens it immediately concerns but also fellow Member States abroad as impediment to sustainable development weakens our fight against climate change, which will weaken our economies in the long run as its consequences manifest in our environment.

The United Nations have been instrumental in driving global efforts to promote sustainable energy, recognizing its critical role in achieving environmental sustainability and mitigating climate change. The UN started their advances toward sustainable energy and overall environmental concerns with the adoption of the *Rio Declaration* in 1992, which established sustainable development as a shared international responsibility. The UN has also adopted *Agenda 21* and *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC), which laid out an comprehensive plan to achieve said goals discussed in the *Rio Declaration* and recognized the issues that come with climate change with a call to action to Member States to resolve them, respectively. At the heart of these endeavors lies the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 7, which aims to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. Through the SDGs, the UN has provided a framework for nations to prioritize renewable energy sources, improve energy efficiency, and expand access to clean energy technologies, thus fostering economic development while mitigating environmental impacts. Regionally, Europe has taken efforts to merge their already established energy networks into the Energy Union. Its goals have been the diversification of energy sources, improvement of energy security, increased energy efficiency, sharing of energy across national borders, and supporting research toward lower carbon emitting technologies. Denmark, known for its pioneering efforts in renewable energy, has set ambitious targets for reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to renewable energy sources. The country has successfully integ