



Cover photo: Solar panels in the community –the Best Ray project (bringing energy services to Tanzanian rural areas)

## Panel discussion

Catalysing growth and empowering change  
as part of the EU Sustainable Energy for all  
Summit

16 April, 2012

Charlemagne building  
Brussels

Organised by the EU Commission and the Danish EU Presidency

## Background

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Around 1.3 billion people in the world are deprived of access to electricity and the opportunities it provides for working, learning or operating a business. Some 2.7 billion people use wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste to cook their meals and heat their homes, exposing themselves and their families to smoke and fumes that damage their health and kill nearly 2 million people every year. Without access to energy we cannot achieve the Millennium Development Goals – nor can we promote economic development. It is this unacceptable situation which prompted UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to launch his "Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All)" initiative September 2011.

This UN initiative is fully in line with the EU's new development policy as outlined in its "Agenda for Change", which seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable growth for human development and pinpoints energy as a key driver for inclusive growth. As the largest provider of development assistance in the world, the EU offers expertise as well as development funding to provide secure, affordable, clean and sustainable access to energy services. This UN initiative therefore presents a significant opportunity for the EU and developing countries to enter into enhanced cooperation involving public institutions, businesses, research institutions and civil society.

Moreover, at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in June this year we will have the chance to take new, decisive steps to mobilise support for the sustainable energy agenda. Stakeholders, including the European Commission, are expected to make a global commitment to achieving the targets of the UN "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative. These are: (i) ensuring universal access to modern energy services; (ii) doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and (iii) doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. Reaching the access goal, which is key to development, will require action by all countries and all sectors to create an enabling environment and mobilise substantial investments.

In this context, the EU Sustainable Energy for All Summit – gathering high-level representatives from the EU, UN, governments, industry and civil society – is a timely event at which to discuss the role of the different actors in the lead-up to Rio+20 and beyond.

### Aims and objectives of the Conference

The Conference intends to promote a common vision between donors, developing countries, industry and civil society on providing sustainable energy access for all. It will help define the role of the different actors and explore the potential ways and means of taking action in the light of Rio+20 and beyond.

In short, the Conference's objectives are to:

- Strengthen the international consensus on providing sustainable energy access for all.
- Reflect on the role of donors, developing countries, civil society and the private sector.
- Discuss strategies for promoting inclusive and sustainable growth for human development.
- Consolidate the focus on sustainable energy access ahead of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development which will be held in Rio in June 2012.

## Approach and agenda

The panel discussion will be chaired by Kandeh K. Yumkella, Chair of UN-Energy and Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation. Keynote speeches to kick off the discussion will be followed by a ministerial round table at which EU development ministers will be present.

### 1) Keynote speeches

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*How to catalyse growth and empower change?*

The UN Secretary-General has called on governments, donors, businesses and civil society partners to support the goal of Sustainable Energy for All. Commissioner Piebalgs is a member of the High-Level Group on Sustainable Energy for All and is leading the work of the technical group on country action for universal energy access. Energy will be a key theme of the Rio+20 Summit, at which leaders from the EU and beyond will make concrete commitments to achieving the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Meeting these ambitious objectives will require coordinated action by governments, international organisations, the business community and civil society. The following speakers will share their views on these themes:

- Andris Piebalgs, EU Commissioner for Development
- Joe Oteng-Adjei, Energy Minister of Ghana (tbc)
- Fulvio Conti, President of Eurelectric, CEO and General Manager of ENEL (tbc)

### 2) Ministerial round table

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*How to implement the ambitious Sustainable Energy for All objectives in a European context?*

The EU and its Member States have been active in sustainable energy for years and have cooperated with different partners to address this issue from different angles. Yet new mechanisms will be required to match the scale and ambition of the results to be delivered and the need to leverage massive investment from the private sector. The role of partner countries will prove equally critical in mobilising the private resources needed to meet the targets. During the ministerial round table, the participants will exchange views on how to achieve the Sustainable Energy for All objectives.