



## Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2023

**For Prelims:** [SDG7](#), [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#), [World Bank](#), [Electricity](#), [Sub-Saharan Africa](#), [Earth Summit](#), [Millennium Development Goals](#), [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#).

**For Mains:** Factors Hindering Achievement of SDG-7.

### Why in News?

A recent report, titled "**Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report 2023**," was released through collaboration between the [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#), [International Renewable Energy Agency](#), [United Nations Statistics Division](#), [World Bank](#), and the WHO.

- The report highlights **various challenges that hinder progress towards achieving United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7)**.

### What are the Major Highlights of the Report?

- **Factors Hindering Achievement of SDG-7:**
  - Factors such as **high inflation**, **uncertain macroeconomic outlook**, **debt distress**, and **limited financial flows** have contributed to the world falling off-track in achieving SDG 7.
  - The report identifies several major economic factors that hinder the realisation of SDG 7 worldwide:
    - Uncertain macroeconomic outlook and high levels of inflation
    - Currency fluctuations and debt distress in many countries
    - Lack of financing and supply chain bottlenecks
    - Tighter fiscal circumstances and soaring prices for materials
- **Progress Towards Specific Targets:**
  - **Access to Electricity and Clean Cooking:** Global access to [electricity](#) increased from **84% to 91% between 2010 and 2021**, but annual growth has slowed.
    - The number of people without electricity **decreased from 1.1 billion in 2010 to 675 million in 2021**.
    - The **goal of universal access to electricity by 2030 remains elusive**.
  - **Access to Clean Cooking:** It improved from 2.9 billion people in 2010 to 2.3 billion in 2021, but 1.9 billion people may still lack access by 2030.
    - The report indicates that approximately 100 million people who recently transitioned to [clean cooking](#) may revert to traditional biomass usage.
    - **Sub-Saharan Africa is expected to have the highest number of people without access to clean cooking in 2030 (6 out of 10 people)**.
  - **Renewable Energy (Target 7.2):** [Renewable energy](#) uptake has grown since 2010 but needs substantial scaling up.
    - The **share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption remains low at 19.1% (or 12.5% excluding traditional biomass)**.
    - Meeting international climate and energy goals requires substantial investments of **USD 1.4-1.7 trillion annually in renewable electricity generation and**

related infrastructure through 2030.

- **Energy Efficiency (Target 7.3):** The current rate of improvement in [energy efficiency](#) is not on track to double by 2030.
  - The average annual growth of 1.8% falls short of the targeted increase of 2.6% per year between 2010 and 2030.
- **International Public Financial Flows (Target 7.a):** Financial flows supporting [clean energy](#) in developing countries have declined since 2020.
  - Financial resources are more than a third lower than the average of the previous decade (2010-2019).
  - The decreasing trend in financial flows is concentrated in a small number of countries, posing challenges for achieving SDG 7, particularly for least-developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states.

## What is Sustainable Development Goal 7?

### ▪ About:

- In 2015, all **United Nations Member States came together to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, aiming to create a harmonious and prosperous future for both humanity and the planet.
- Central to this agenda are the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which serve as a pressing call for action to be embraced by all nations, regardless of their development status.

### ▪ Background of SDGs:

- In **June 1992**, at the [Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#), more than **178 countries adopted Agenda 21**, a comprehensive plan of action to build a global partnership for sustainable development to improve human lives and protect the environment.
- Member States unanimously adopted the **Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000** at UN Headquarters in New York.
  - The Summit led to the **elaboration of eight [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#) to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.**
- 2015 was a landmark year for multilateralism and international policy shaping, with the adoption of several major agreements:
  - [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(March 2015\)](#)
  - [Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development \(July 2015\)](#)
  - [Paris Agreement on Climate Change \(December 2015\)](#)

### ▪ Current Status:

- Now, the annual High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development serves as the central UN platform for the follow-up and review of the SDGs.
- The **Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)** provides substantive support and capacity-building for the SDGs and their related thematic issues.

### ▪ SDG 7:

- Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) **calls for “affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” by 2030**. Its three core targets are the foundation for our work: By 2030:
  - **Target 7.1:** ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
  - **Target 7.2:** increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
  - **Target 7.3:** double the **global rate of improvement in energy efficiency**
  - **Target 7.a:** **enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology**, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
  - **Target 7.b:** expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, **in particular least developed countries, small island developing States**, and land-locked developing countries.



## UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### ***Prelims***

#### **Q. Consider the following statements: (2016)**

1. The Sustainable Development Goals were first proposed in 1972 by a global think tank called the 'Club of Rome'.
2. The Sustainable Development Goals have to be achieved by 2030.

#### **Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (b)**

### ***Mains***

**Q.** Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)." Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. **(2018)**

**Q.** National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement. **(2020)**

**Source: DTE**

