

There is no just energy transition without universal access to clean cooking.

MECS Call For Action



MECS Global Challenge for clean cooking

The 40,60 by 2030 challenge is a call to action for the international community to mobilize political will and ensure commitments are backed by finance to accelerate modern energy for cooking in Low and Middle Income Countries to meet the aspirations of all those currently without access.

The 40,60 by 2030 challenge therefore has two major components, which are an intermediate step in the just energy transition towards a net-zero carbon world by 2050.

It calls for 40% of all households connected to grid or off-grid electricity to be using it for cooking by 2030, and 60% of households using modern energy for cooking to be generated from low-carbon sources by 2030.

Key international stakeholders have drawn attention to the importance of addressing this clean cooking challenge to support a Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs and accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) programme supports such calls and in this document, instead of adding our own words, we reiterate the calls and commitments endorsed by multiple agencies that support our global challenge above.

The problem



“With fewer than ten years until we reach 2030, the world remains far off track to meet Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) — which commits to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. Nearly 2.6 billion people still lack access to modern cooking solutions, and the COVID-19 pandemic threatens to reverse progress and further exacerbate inequalities.”



“Approximately one-third of the world’s population – 2.6 billion people – still lack access to clean cooking solutions, costing trillions of dollars in damage to the climate and local economies and contributing to more than 4 million premature deaths each year.”

Part of the problem is that clean cooking is often considered separate from modern energy access, despite it being an integral part of SDG7 as noted by GOGLA:



“What is energy access? ESMAP has developed a Multi-Tiered Framework to measure it and defines it as “the ability to avail energy that is adequate, available when needed, reliable, of good quality, convenient, affordable, legal, healthy and safe for all required energy services”.

Why is it important

“There is no just energy transition without universal access to clean cooking.”



- Clean cooking is beneficial for climate change and clean air.
- Clean cooking saves lives.
- Clean cooking is good for gender and development.

“Energy and time poverty, as well as drudgery of women are eliminated by increasing women’s access to and control over sustainable energy products and services.”

“Take action to address clean cooking challenges among fragile and displaced populations.”



The response



“Increase participation of women and integrate gender issues not only to increase impacts for women and girls, but to increase the effectiveness of solutions. Women are a key part of the clean cooking value chain, from producing and distributing products to entrepreneurship and executive leadership. The private sector must rapidly scale opportunities for women to participate formally in the sector as providers and decision-makers, instead of simply as users, aiming to increase the share of women entrepreneurs and employees in the clean cooking sector to at least 50% by 2030.”



“Countries and regions (re)formulate and adopt more inclusive and gender-responsive energy access and transition pathways, strategies and policies.”

The context of the coming decade

“UN-Energy, working with all UN system partners and UN Country Teams, commits to helping Member States and their partners to attain these milestones to be achieved by 2025 towards SDG 7 and net zero emissions, as they build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.”



“More than US\$400 billion was pledged in new finance and investment towards clean energy by 35+ countries via Energy Compacts during the UN High-level Dialogue on Energy, the first leader-level meeting on energy under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in 40 years.”

Core message

So what can be done practically and where does MECS fit? We focus on three points in line with the commitments endorsed by our colleagues:



“Build stronger partnerships with the electricity sector to advance electric cooking.”

“To unlock the vast potential of modern energy, we commit to delivering electricity access to one billion people by 2030; driving green growth, boosting resiliency, and ensuring the world’s most vulnerable communities are placed at the forefront of a cleaner, fairer, energy transition.”

“Integrate clean cooking into nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national energy planning.”

“Prioritize access to clean cooking in national planning and policies, including energy planning, COVID economic recovery planning, and Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Agreement.”

“The electricity and clean cooking sectors should increase collaboration to identify shared opportunities for cross-sector innovation and partnership, including holistic household energy load planning, electricity and cooking bundling programs, and innovations in mini-grid development that can support clean cooking.”

“Raise awareness and consumer demand for clean cooking solutions, addressing underlying inequality, gender and poverty challenges.”

“Develop sustainable markets and incentivize innovation to deliver clean cooking solutions at scale.”



“We urge governments, investors, businesses, and other key stakeholders to align with a greater sense of urgency and innovation, elevating clean cooking within energy, climate and development agendas.”



Full calls to action, manifesto and energy compact here

Clean Cooking Manifesto by the Africa-Europe Foundation:

<https://www.friendsofeurope.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/AEF-CleanCooking-Manifesto.pdf>

Off-Grid Solar Energy Compact: Power 1 Billion Lives:

https://www.gogla.org/sites/default/files/gogla_power_1_billion_lives_compact_september21.pdf

Multi-Stakeholder Gender and Energy Compact:

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/60ct_multistakeholder_gender_and_energy_compact_3.pdf

Call to Action and Principles on Clean Cooking:

https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/call_to_action_and_principles_on_clean_cooking_25may.pdf

