

About the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership

The Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership, is a non-profit international organization, composed of the world's leading electricity companies, whose mission is to play an active role in global electricity issues within the international framework and to promote sustainable energy development through electricity sector projects and human capacity building activities in developing and emerging nations worldwide.

The organization, in partnership with UN agencies, key international organizations and local partners, contributes to enhancing access to energy for some of the 1.4 billion people around the world still without access to this essential resource.

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The Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership: Working collaboratively to accelerate the building of a low-carbon economy with universal access to electricity

We, the Chairmen of the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership, believe that the next ten years will prove vital in the future of sustainable energy development. We recognize the fundamental role the power sector can play in bringing effective solutions to sustainable development and with our companies delivering about one third of the world's total electricity production, we jointly affirm our commitment to be part of the solution.

As individual companies, our situations vary given our home environment. However, we all share common future concerns and we identified three challenges that the international power sector will face in the next ten years that must be overcome to accelerate the building of a low-carbon economy with universal access to electricity:

- 1) Decarbonize power generation by combining a well balanced generation mix including renewables and low-carbon generation with greater energy efficiency. Our collective generation capacity is continuously moving towards a bigger share of renewable energies and towards less carbon emitting technologies. We will proceed on this path wherever national and regional conditions allow. We believe, however, that in most countries even the future lower-carbon electricity generation mix and transmission systems will include large hydro, advanced coal technologies and nuclear as base load. In countries which strongly depend on nuclear energy, recovery of trust in nuclear energy can play a major role in overcoming the challenge of maintaining carbon emissions at low levels for the foreseeable time period.
- 2) Optimize transmission and distribution systems. The integration of more renewable energy into the grid puts an immediate pressure on the electricity industry to invest in transmission and distribution networks. Similarly, the need to increase energy efficiency promotes the rationale to install new technologies such as ultra-high voltage transmission grids, smart grids and smart meters. Sharing experiences with these technologies and best practices can benefit all actors involved. General public awareness and education are essential to guarantee the responsible use of energy and to understand the costs associated with a new lower-carbon electricity generation and transmission mix. Appropriate platforms and policies to ensure public acceptance for technological solutions in new transmission lines and all mitigating technologies and measures are key for wide-scale deployment of zero and low-emitting energy infrastructure at reasonable costs.

Members:





- 3) Ensure stakeholder affordability for electric energy supply. The first two challenges will require large-scale investments in the power sector. Balancing these investments with a desire to ensure affordable access to electricity is of vital importance. Building awareness of the financial costs involved in the electricity sector reform and further development is important. Governments must define stable, coherent and long-term oriented energy policies and regulatory framework to attract public and private investments and to ensure proper unbiased market conditions and a level playing field among different technologies to encourage a well-balanced energy mix.

Our experience and commitments as utilities have afforded us confident insights into the contributions the power sector can make to sustainable energy development worldwide and it is essential to help build a common understanding of the electricity sector's challenges and perspectives to ensure enabling environments are set to achieve a positive impact.

Notwithstanding the difficult political and macroeconomic situation some of the members are currently facing, we commit ourselves to continue developing innovative technologies that will harness the global resources in an even more efficient way, becoming more reliable and less polluting and accepted by all stakeholders.

Working collaboratively with major international organizations

Towards Rio+20

The number of people without access to electricity remains as high as 1.3 billion, approximately 20% of the world's population. We cannot afford to delay action on addressing climate change. The Rio+20 conference will bring to center stage the role energy access can have in reconciling development, poverty eradication and the environment, in line with the objectives of the UN Secretary-General's "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative.

At Rio+20, the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership will join forces with major international organizations and will announce its commitment on a set of concrete actions in support of the goal of the SE4All Initiative.

In conclusion, given concerns over resource availability, climate change, energy security, and economic uncertainties, working together collaboratively with all stakeholders will be the only way to provide universal access to electricity and to meet growing global electricity demand in a sustainable way. The members of the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership are ready to contribute their expertise to this process and to cooperate with public and private sector organizations sharing their objectives.