

## 2022 IEA Ministerial – Side Event

Ensuring a people-centred and just clean energy transition

### Chair's Statement

*March 23, 2022*

If governments are to successfully achieve the climate goals of the Paris Agreement, they will have to act and ensure their clean energy transition policies are truly people-centred and inclusive. People must be at the centre of policy implementation to accelerate global action on clean energy and energy security.

Today's event took place as Russia's unwarranted attack on Ukraine unfolds, with massive humanitarian, political and energy implications. As governments act to reduce fossil fuel imports to bolster energy security and enhance long term economic resilience, they are strengthening their resolve to accelerate clean energy transitions, and to do so in inclusive and people-centred ways.

The [Global Commission on People-Centred Clean Energy Transitions](#), which I chaired over the last year, was extremely valuable in bringing this major issue to the fore of our international policy agendas. The Commission's process enabled members to collectively draw on recent experiences and best practices from around the world to identify a set of 12 actionable recommendations. These recommendations were launched just before COP26 to assist decision makers with a people centred approach that ensures the benefits and costs involved in the transformation of our energy system are distributed fairly in a way that leaves no one behind. I want to thank Dr Fatih Birol, Executive Director of the IEA, for convening the Global Commission and I was very pleased to chair it, along with my co-chair Sophie Gladima, Senegalese Minister for Petroleum and Energy, and with the honorary patronage of Denmark's Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen.

The side event heard from many perspectives, and I am grateful to all Ministers, CEOs and other participants. I am particularly grateful to Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Trade Union Confederation and to Minister Gladima, as well as all the other speakers who joined today's discussion. I am also very pleased that we heard from Mr. Chiagozie Udeh, Global Focal Point at the SDG7 Constituency, as we work to ensure active participation and recognition of young people in high level clean energy and climate change discussions.

All participants in today's side event recognised that clean energy transitions are for people and about people, and that governments around the world should enact clean energy policies designed with a people centred approach. To that end, the value of international dialogue and exchange of best practice cannot be underestimated. The work and recommendation of the Global Commission were warmly endorsed by participants, and it was agreed that it will be important to incorporate the recommendations into future policies and processes.

Participants in today's discussion also agreed the IEA should, building on the work of the Global Commission, expand its work on the people-centred issues of clean energy transitions, including close collaboration with other key international bodies such as the ILO, and through the development of new ways to facilitate collaboration and analysis to support governments as they chart their locally specific clean energy transition pathways. They encouraged the Secretariat to develop a work programme based on these principles, and asked it work closely with all members and partners to enhance global exchange on these important issues, underpinned by IEA analysis and advice.

With a view to making the energy transition a just and people-oriented transition together, I look forward to continue to work closely on this issue with other governments to raise ambition and accelerate action.

Dr. Anders Hoffmann on behalf of Minister Dan Jørgensen  
Minister for Climate, Energy and Utilities  
Denmark