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Closing the Clean Cooking Gap

Voluntary Infrastructure Investment Action Plan to Accelerate the Deployment of Clean Cooking Solutions

KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, 10 October 2025

This document provides voluntary measures that can be pursued by countries, international partners, industry stakeholders, and civil society to advance global access, affordability, and sustainability of clean cooking with fuels, including but not limited to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), whilst stimulating localised capabilities to support the overall achievement of affordable, reliable, modern and secure energy for all.

When considering adopting the Voluntary Action Plan, users are encouraged to assess the current maturity of clean cooking access within their respective countries. Some elements of the Voluntary Action Plan pillars may be immediately applicable, while others may require further assessment and adaptation to local contexts.

The proposed key aspects of accelerating clean cooking have been identified as (i) policy enablement, (ii) provision and mobilisation of funding, (iii) market and industry development, and (iv) addressing the knowledge gap. Countries are encouraged to take these voluntary recommendations into account in formulating their national clean cooking policies in line with national circumstances and priorities.

1. Policies for Universal Clean Cooking Access

These recommendations may serve as a reference for Governments and public institutions in line with national circumstance and priorities, to explore ways to strengthen clear, and evidence-based measures to support the acceleration of the clean cooking action plan. The following Voluntary policy actions are recommended:

- 1.1 Elevate clean cooking to a national priority and integrate innovative technologies and fuels into national energy policy measures and regional plans.
- 1.2 Create a conducive policy environment, and where necessary, undertaking regulatory reforms, which may be inclusive of taxes and tariffs to support the development, deployment, affordability, and access to clean cooking technologies, infrastructure and fuels, including but not limited to LPG.

2. Increased Funding and Finance for Clean Cooking

- 2.1 Encourage increased affordable and available funding through concessional financing, including clean cooking in national government budget allocation, advancing long-term carbon credit offtake agreements and collaborating with industry partners.
- 2.2. Assess the potential for the establishment of an infrastructure investment fund and risk-sharing instruments and adopting a set of guidelines on clean cooking financing principles.

3. Clean Cooking Market and Industry Development

- 3.1 Undertake feasibility studies to assess the potential for regional clean cooking infrastructure clusters, local value chains, and partnering with industry to develop targeted skills and entrepreneurship programmes, with a focus on advancing youth and women empowerment across the clean cooking local value chain.
- 3.2 Integrate innovative technologies and business models that address affordability challenges and unlock private funding for cooking energy.

4. Bridging the Knowledge Gap

Those who adopt the Action Plan are encouraged to:

- 4.1. Establish advocacy and communications plans to raise awareness and adoption with a special focus on women and persons in vulnerable situations.
- 4.2. Create clean cooking capacity within regional bodies to advance regional tracking, data sharing, and standards setting.
- 4.3. Facilitate market entry for women- and youth-led clean cooking enterprises through incubation, preferential procurement mechanisms and dedicated portfolio allocations, setting clear targets for inclusive market development.
- 4.4. Establish a network of higher learning institutions that can exchange best practices on clean cooking data, modelling and planning, linking the reporting on clean cooking progress to carbon credit issuances to facilitate better tracking and monitoring claims and verifying emission reductions.