



Workshop organized by IEA jointly with UNDP and UNIDO
Towards Universal Energy Access: MDGs and beyond
Paris, France, 7th May 2010

BACKGROUND

Energy services provide an essential input to economic activity and contribute to social development through education and public health, and help meet the basic human need for food and shelter. Access to modern energy services is paramount for accelerating the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and sustainable development. Many countries have established a virtuous circle of improvements in energy infrastructure and economic growth, nonetheless today 1.5 billion people are still denied access to electricity and around 2.5 billion people rely on traditional biomass as their primary source of energy. If current trends are allowed to continue, more people will be without modern energy access in 2030 than today. Changing this pathway will require genuine political commitment to set goals/targets for energy poverty alleviation and then to initiate immediate action to see that they are met.

The **World Energy Outlook**, the IEA's flagship publication, has provided detailed analysis of energy-poverty for almost a decade in an effort to raise awareness of the issue in the international policy debate. This year's edition of the WEO will include a special focus on the role of energy in development including the identification of a possible sustainable path towards universal energy access in a climate conscious world. The study, to be carried out by IEA jointly with UNDP and UNIDO, will provide quantitative analysis to inform discussions at the 2010 MDG Review Summit that will be held in September 2010 in occasion of the 65th session of the General Assembly of UN.

Specific issues to be addressed include the following:

- Definition of a energy access
- The need of a universal energy access goal
- Supply, cost and financing requirements to ensure universal access
- Effective measures to encourage global action and cooperation

This informal workshop, organized jointly by IEA, UNDP and UNIDO, is intended to gather input for the study by bringing together high-level experts in economic development, energy infrastructure and technology, finance and public policy from developed and developing countries to share views and information on how to forge new, cost effective approaches to help create a sustainable energy future. Its results will help the IEA, the UNDP and UNIDO, to shape the key findings and messages of the joint study.

The workshop will be informal in nature and will be held according to the Chatham House Rule, according to which participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed. Each session will be introduced with a short presentation by an invited expert, to be followed by an open roundtable discussion.

