



Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda SDG 7 Roadmap for Georgia



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Energy Transition Pathways for the 2030 Agenda

SDG7 Roadmap for Georgia



National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning

Developed using National Expert SDG7 Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP)

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MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
OF GEORGIA



Foreword: ESCAP

Energy is the key enabler of development for the Asia-Pacific region's rapidly growing economies.

Like many countries in the region, Georgia has shown strong growth of both its economy and its demand for energy in recent decades. However, the advent of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development signalled the advent of a new era of development across the region, based on inclusiveness, resilience and environmental stewardship. The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to change the region's development trajectory and to build back better. In this endeavour, transitioning to a sustainable, secure and least-cost energy system can form a key part of the recovery as well as pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable society.

Georgia's endowment of renewable energy resources – hydro power in particular, but also its abundance of wind, solar, geothermal and biomass potential – means that the country is well-positioned to establish a sustainable energy future.

Georgia's Roadmap for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 7 presents a detailed assessment aimed at helping the country to reach a clean and green energy future. It details a range of technical opportunities and policy options for reducing emissions, saving energy and lowering costs. The road map offers an opportunity to leverage a least-cost sustainable energy development pathway, and to direct the investment savings to other critical sectors – such as the health sector – in building back better from COVID 19.

However, Georgia's SDG 7 Roadmap is about more than just affordable and clean energy. The measures identified and recommendations made will not only reduce energy intensity and grow Georgia's renewable energy sector – with flow-on benefits in employment and health – but will also reduce its reliance on imported natural gas and petroleum fuels. Furthermore, the Roadmap presents an assessment of how Georgia can leverage its clean energy potential to export electricity to neighbouring countries through enhanced power grid connectivity.

The Roadmap takes a holistic approach to the energy system. Energy for heating, transport, industry and agriculture are considered in detail in an assessment that considers the impacts across the entire system. This is important for evaluating complex measures such as the electrification of transport which affects management of the power grid, petroleum and transport sectors.

Georgia was a pioneer in using ESCAP's National Expert SDG Tool for Energy Planning (NEXSTEP) and was among the first countries in the region to develop a Sustainable Development Goal 7 Roadmap. The success of this cooperative effort is testament to our shared ambition for Georgia and the region to deliver on the sustainable energy vision of SDG 7. This Roadmap provides an example for other countries looking to understand how they can begin taking up the sustainable energy development opportunities within their own borders.

I look forward to Georgia's continuing leadership in delivering a secure, resilient and sustainable energy future as it builds back better from COVID-19.

Mr Kaveh Zahedi

Deputy Executive Secretary,
Sustainable Development,
United Nations Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Foreword: Georgia

Georgia is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The country has undertaken active measures to adjust the SDG targets and indicators according to its local conditions, challenges and opportunities. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is mandatory for Georgia, and these types of documents help in meeting the commitments and, at the same time, facilitate the usage of local resources. The Government's policies and priorities are well-aligned with the SDGs – making them a very solid basis of the country's reform agenda.

It is noteworthy to highlight the fact that Georgia has made significant progress in putting itself well on track to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Notwithstanding this, there are still some challenges and sectors to be identified, where further work is needed to achieve the SDGs. Incorporation of the SDGs in national policy is one of the Government of Georgia's main achievements. This will be an essential component for incorporating the SDGs into the daily agenda of public institutions. One of the most important SDGs is SDG 7, which will be considered when developing national energy policies.

The Government has prioritized knowledge-based and innovation-driven economic development, and actively supports an increase of innovative activities by micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises; this includes start-ups and individuals and their participation in the digital economy. During the past five years, Georgia also took active steps towards responsible production and consumption.

Based on the foregoing, Georgia remains fully dedicated to the purpose of the implementation of the SDGs. The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia expresses its gratitude to ESCAP, the counterparts and the experts involved for their work on "SDG 7 Roadmap for Georgia" and active cooperation. Sustainable development goals are getting more and more tangible and important. As a member of ESCAP, we look forward to continuing our cooperation.

Mr David Tvalabeishvili

Deputy Minister of Economy and
Sustainable Development of Georgia

Abbreviations and acronyms

| | | | |
|---------|--|---------|---|
| BAU | business-as-usual | LCOE | Levelized Cost of Electricity |
| CBA | cost benefit analysis | LEAP | Long-range Energy Alternatives Planning |
| CCGT | combined cycle gas turbine | MCDA | Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis |
| CFBC | circulating fluidized bed combustion | MEPA | Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia |
| CPS | current policy scenario | MEPS | Minimum Energy Performance Standards |
| CTF | clean technology fund | MJ | megajoule |
| EE S&L | Energy Efficiency Labelling Program | MoESD | Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia |
| ESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific | MT | million tons |
| ETS | Emission Trading System | MTF | Multi-Tier Framework |
| EV | electric vehicle | NAMA | Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action |
| GEOSTAT | National Statistics Office of Georgia | NDC | nationally determined contributions |
| GHG | greenhouse gas | NEXSTEP | National Expert SDG Tool for |
| ICS | improved cooking stove | | |

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