

Summary of Parallel Session 10: Energy Transition I

Session 10 focused on the energy sector which is at the core of a transformation process towards a sustainable future. Everybody knows that a global energy transformation towards sustainable and green energy sources is needed, therefore it is not a question of "if" anymore, but the "how" is at the center of attention. There are many different aspects that need to be considered when talking about transforming the energy sector. The Paris Agreement as well as the Sustainable Development Goals focus on the energy sector and set important goals to support a sustainable energy transformation. This process is characterized by many obstacles, but brings along tremendous chances for valuable co-benefits in different areas such as health, prosperity or employment. The following key findings reflect the discussions that took place during session 10 on "Energy Transformation I":

- 1) The issue of fossil fuel subsidies needs to be addressed if an energy transformation is supposed to be successful on the national level. Countries still spend huge amounts of their budget on fossil fuel subsidies and therefore miss out on a "triple win" situation. If that money was spent on sustainable energy production and if fossil fuels would be taxed appropriately, governments could win by saving money, funding Sustainable Development Goals through budget posts that previously had been allocated to fossil fuel subsidies and they could also reduce emissions. Taxation and the end of subsidies are valuable measures to support a sustainable energy transformation because price signals can shape and drive consumer behavior.
- 2) Access to energy and overcoming energy poverty is a very important topic especially for many countries in the Global South. Renewable energy sources and the possibility of their decentralized fields of application can help address this issue. In order to reach the Sustainable Development goals, every person must get access to clean, safe and affordable energy. This also has positive co-benefits with development as development without access to energy is not possible. The countries of the Global South need to be supported in realizing important steps towards an energy transformation in their country and at the same time in providing clean, safe and affordable energy to all of their citizens.
- 3) The energy sector is at the center of attention when it comes to reaching the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals. Increasing the share in Renewable Energies alone will not be enough in order to succeed in transforming the energy sector in good time. At the same time exit strategies for ending the exploitation and usage of coal, oil and gas need to be developed and carried out. It is absolutely necessary to shape this process in a socially inclusive and just way (just transition).