Intervention Prepared for the High level dialogue on the Implementation of the United Nations
Decade of Sustainable Energy for All 2014-2024

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Your Excellencies, distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen

My name is Caroline Usikpedo I am speaking on behalf of the Women and NGO
major groups.
Access to energy makes communities safer, helps small businesses thrive and powers essential
services. Therefore a comprehensive approach to scaling up energy access is critical.

The world is not on track to achieve universal energy access by 2030. As a result, developing
countries, particularly in Sub Saharan Africa, are at a great risk of being left behind.
While we have noted that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 – is essential to reach other
SDGs, we have identified several gaps and challenges and these are:

1. Lack of policy implementation- the policies are always on paper and they remain there,
implementation is always a major challenge for some if not all our governments

2. Lack of Finance – There is little or no financial and technological investments in the sector,
social and economic issues such as poverty, lack of political will and wrong approaches in
addressing the energy problem still affects the development of the energy sector in developing
countries, especially Africa

3. Not Affordable – Energy be it Renewable or dirty has never been affordable, there is a huge
tendency of Inequality in access to renewable energy.

4. Large scale power projects prioritized over provision of energy for clean cooking. Large scale
energy infrastructure projects do not by nature target the marginalized/ women/ poor rural
households.

5. Countries where indoor air pollution appears not to be an issue e.g. open fire cooking, may not
feel the urgency to deploy clean cooking solutions.

6. Where women are not involved in paid work, and with gender inequity in social norms and
within household decision making, choices for energy often do not prioritise women’s time saved
We call for member states and stakeholders to:

1. At each stage of energy planning and policy-making needs to factor in gender dimensions and actively support and advance women’s rights to meet SDG 7 and SDG 5.

2. Support clean cooking fuels and technologies: National governments should be encouraged and supported to demonstrate greater political and financial commitment to ensure that all households switch to clean fuels and stoves.

3. Target poor women specifically – empower them to make energy choices e.g. through providing subsidy on their bank account.

4. Support energy democracy. Reverse top-down energy production, distribution, and control so that women, households and communities can drive energy interventions and make decisions that work for them.

5. Financial allocations / commitments have to be made for capacity building of women, youth, communities and policy makers to address energy access issues.

Thank you.