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TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION REPORT 2011

*Powering Development
with Renewable
Energy Technologies*





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PREFACE

As the evidence and impact of climate change increase, so does the urgency to develop new, clean ways of generating and using energy. And as global demand for energy increases, this quest will become even more urgent. This year the population of the planet reached 7 billion. By 2050 it may top 9 billion. All will need access to modern and affordable energy services.

The UNCTAD *Technology and Innovation Report 2011* focuses on the important role of renewable energy technologies in responding to the dual challenge of reducing energy poverty while mitigating climate change. This is particularly timely as the global community prepares for the Rio+20 Conference next year. The Report identifies key capacity issues for developing countries and proposes concrete recommendations for the wider use of renewable energy technologies to promote sustainable development and poverty reduction.

My high-level Advisory Group on Energy and Climate Change stressed that there is an urgent need to mobilize resources and accelerate efforts to ensure universal access to energy. Creating an enabling environment for the promotion and use of renewable energy technologies is a critical part of this effort, as recognized by the United Nations General Assembly when it declared next year as the “International Year for Sustainable Energy for All”.

It is also at the heart of my recent launch of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative to help ensure universal access to modern energy services; double the rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, all by the year 2030.

We can tackle both energy poverty and climate change by facilitating investment, enhancing access to technologies, and doing more to help developing countries make a transition to a greener path of economic growth. *The Technology and Innovation Report 2011* helps point the way forward.



BAN Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations

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