

CONCEPT NOTE

Panel: The Role of the Energy Sector in Achieving Carbon Neutrality

Location: Chile Pavilion Auditorium	Date: 12/10/2019	Start: 09:00	End: 10:15
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Context:

Unprecedented action is required to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 and limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. This will require rapid and dynamic changes across economic sectors.

The Climate Ambition Alliance was launched by Chilean President Sebastián Piñera at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in September 2019 in order to accelerate the transformation needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Both governments and non-governmental actors participate in this initiative given that addressing the climate urgency requires the efforts of all.

While energy accounts for approximately two-thirds of global emissions, the sector contains substantial mitigation opportunities. As countries around the world pursue diverse paths to energy sustainability, international collaboration and the commitment of the private sector will be key to addressing shared priorities and challenges.

Objective:

The session will focus on carbon neutrality pathways within the energy sector, as well as the key elements that are required to catalyze increased action.

Main Themes:

Reaching carbon neutrality requires that essential challenges must be addressed within the energy sector, including the increased use of renewables, energy efficiency, electrification of sectors that have traditionally used other fuel sources, phase-out of coal power plants, hydrogen and system integration for zero-emission fuels and heat. Cost-effective strategies and economic instruments such as emissions reduction certificates and tradable emission permit mechanisms will also play an important role.

In this context, the session will focus on the following questions:

- What will drive carbon neutrality? What are the current and future trends?
- What are the main challenges in the energy sector? How can they be tackled?
- Where are more research and innovation needed? What are the associated challenges?
- What policies or instruments need to be designed/implemented? What are the knowledge gaps?
- What other sectors should be involved? How can their commit be encouraged?

Format:

The format will consist of a five-person panel composed of ministers and high-level representatives of international organizations and/or companies. The session will begin with scene setting remarks by the moderator, followed by key messages from each panelist and concluding with a moderated discussion.