Renewable energy and energy efficiency programs in developing countries are making great strides towards closing the gap in greenhouse gas emissions required to reach the goal of limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius. However, most of these efforts have neither been measured nor reported. In order to highlight the importance of their contribution to closing the emissions gap, The 1 Gigaton Coalition will support countries to measure and report reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from their activities and initiatives in the energy sector.

The 1 Gigaton Coalition will help mobilise action in the energy sector to reduce the emissions gap.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

The 1 Gigaton Coalition is a voluntary international framework to increase efforts to measure and report reduced GHG emissions resulting from renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives and programs in developing countries. According to UNEP, the gap between the GHG emission reductions required in 2020 and the present pledges made by countries, is about 8 – 12 GtCO₂e/year on a global scale to stay on track to comply with the 2 degrees goal. 3 – 4.5 GtCO₂e of emissions can be avoided by realizing the full potential for renewable energy and energy efficiency globally. Initially, the 1 Gigaton Coalition aims to measure and report GHG emissions reductions resulting from renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives and programs of 1 GtCO₂e by 2020, to help mobilize action to reduce the emissions gap.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

The 1 Gigaton Coalition intends to work with initiatives and agencies already involved in tracking and supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency activities in developing countries. It would help to reinforce and expand national, regional and global public and private efforts to measure and report GHG emissions resulting from actions to increase access to sustainable energy services by renewable energy and energy efficiency. Partners are expected to measure and report on achieved reductions of GHG emissions resulting from supported renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives and programs. The 1 Gigaton Coalition will help increase the visibility of on-going national programs and initiatives from donors for deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency in developing countries. More and better information will also improve planning and financing opportunities. The Coordination Team of the 1 Gigaton Coalition, initially hosted by UNEP, will coordinate the collection of data and the production of annual reports by working with existing initiatives and agencies who already collect and analyse data to ensure effective collaboration and to avoid any unnecessary duplication. Reports will be gradually developed according to agreed guidelines and methodologies relevant to those under the UNFCCC and the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative.

WHO SHOULD JOIN?

Participation in the 1 Gigaton Coalition is open to both developed and developing countries, as well as to intergovernmental organizations, representatives of the private sector, and civil society. Participation is voluntary, and as such, membership does not create any binding obligations and each Partner individually determines the nature of its participation.

By joining the 1 Gigaton Coalition, and endorsing its framework, partners would be able to benefit from the following:

- To gain global recognition and credibility for achievements made in reducing GHG emissions through renewable energy and energy efficiency activities;
- To increase the visibility of countries' mitigation efforts through measuring and reporting of emissions;
- To access valuable data and credible information on reduced GHG emissions from renewable energy and energy efficiency activities;
- To track progress achieved in climate change actions to identify where additional mitigation effort/support may be needed;
- To strengthen the technical capacity of countries and partners to measure and report greenhouse gas emissions.

Following its announcement at the UN Climate Summit on 23rd September in New York, the Government of Norway and UNEP in collaboration with other partners will be formally launching “The 1 Gigaton Coalition” on 10 December at COP 20 in Lima.

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