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Access to Energy: how to meet local needs and to address global challenges

Access to modern energy services is a basic prerequisite for economic and social development and it also helps preserving a healthy environment for present and future generations, at a local and global level. However, at the beginning of the international debate on sustainable development, energy was not even explicitly addressed in the main outcome documents (neither Agenda 21 nor the Millennium Declaration addressed energy, leading many to define it as the “Missing MDG”). Then, in the last decade, energy begun to be recognized by the international community as an essential mean to achieve sustainable development and the other development goals, above all, the MDGs. This momentum culminated with the General Assembly resolution proclaiming 2012 as the "International Year for Sustainable Energy for All".

eni, operating in many countries where energy poverty is a major issue, elaborated across the years an integrated strategy to fight energy poverty, including different kind of interventions that aim at addressing this challenge at a global and local level. One of the most significant experiences is the construction of highly efficient power plants in Nigeria and Congo to produce electricity from gas at the wellheads that would otherwise be flared. This solution, that can be considered as a best practice, generates and distributes energy, while fighting climate change, and it's going to be replicated in other countries. eni's strategy against energy poverty also includes other aspects of the company's business practice, ranging from the contribution the company gives to the development of local gas markets through infrastructure building and gas delivering, to small scale community investment projects based on renewables in remote areas.

eni - as one of the sustainability leaders for UN Global Compact - will strengthen its commitment in the future, both working on the ground within its business activities and supporting the take in charge of the issue in the international arena.