

1st Meeting of the “African Sub-Network of Sustainable Energy Centres”

Providing NEXUS Solutions: Improving Livelihoods through regional cooperation

COP 23, Bonn, IRENA Pavilion A.07 – Bonn ZONE

15 November 4:30-6:00pm

The African Regional Sustainable Energy Centres in collaboration with UNIDO are organising a panel discussion on “**Providing NEXUS Solutions: Improving Livelihoods through regional cooperation**”. The panel discussion takes place within the 1st meeting of the “African Sub-Network of Sustainable Energy Centres” and aims at addressing the urgent need of channeling regional cooperation towards a stronger NEXUS approach.

The panel discussion is taking place on the 16 November **at the COP 23 in Bonn and is kindly hosted by IRENA.**

The need for a NEXUS approach

The lack of access to sustainable and affordable energy in most of the African Regions is still affecting a large number of the population. These are more or less the same people that lack access to adequate food, clean drinking-water and safe sanitation/hygiene. The intricate connection between water, energy, and food, and related dimensions such as gender, climate change, health and livelihoods, present not only challenges but also opportunities to achieve sustainable development. The integration of gender issues is vital for energy projects and also plays a significant role when looking at agricultural value chains. Although the importance of a nexus approach is recognized more than ever before, the links between and among the water, gender, agriculture, energy, food and health communities are weak, with serious implications for the effectiveness of programs. This needs to be tackled through an integrated approach and requires a new thinking in the development and implementation of projects.

The traditional approach to making clean electricity provisions through grid extension is increasingly proving to be unaffordable. Off-grid technologies, including renewable energy, and application models have been around for a while but despite their rapid falling costs in recent years they are still expensive for the intended beneficiaries. Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all is one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), being Goal #7.

Renewable energy resources such as solar and wind may be used to power water pumps thus increasing access to clean and affordable water in line with the SDG#6. With provision of clean and affordable energy and water for rural communities, for the agricultural and health sectors with a gender approach all but chief amongst the following SDGs will be tackled:

- SDG#1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- SDG#2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- SDG#3- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; and
- SDG#5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The Regional Sustainable Energy Centres

Within the last decade, Regional Communities in Africa have established Sustainable Energy Centres. The ECOWAS Region established the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) based in Cape Verde, the SADC Region established the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) based in Namibia, the EAC established the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) and RCREEE was established by 10 Arab States and is based in Egypt.

The Centres respond to the urgent need for increased regional cooperation and capacities to mitigate existing barriers to renewable energy and energy efficiency investment, markets and industries. They complement and strengthen ongoing national activities in the areas of policy and capacity development, knowledge management and awareness raising, as well as investment and business promotion.

The Centres enjoy high-level support from the Energy Ministers and respond to the individual needs of the respective national governments. The centers have a strong local identity, ownership and work according to local rules and procedures. They are closely linked to the regional organizations and their decision-making processes. They form a strong global advocacy group for SE4ALL and climate resilience.

Together with the other centres around the world, they form a Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC). The network is supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID), European Union (EU), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other partners.

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- EACREEE www.eacreee.org
 - ECREEE www.ecreee.org
 - SACREEE www.sacreee.org
 - RCREEE www.rcreee.org

Expected Outcome

The first meeting of the African Sustainable Energy Centres will deliberate on the most effective ways for regional cooperation to foster the nexus approach on Energy, Agriculture, Water, Health and Gender aspects. The conclusions of the meeting will result in a joint position paper of the African Regional Sustainable Energy Centres.

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Draft Agenda

Opening and Key Note addresses

Opening and Welcome by UNIDO

Key Note address from the African Development Bank

Key Note address from IRENA

PANEL Discussion

Moderator: **Ms Elfriede-Anna More**, Director of International Environment Affairs, Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

Presentation - setting the scene

Panelists

- **Mr Michael Ahimbisibwe**, Executive Director of EACREEE
- **Mr Mahama Kappiah**, Executive Director of ECREEE
- **Mr Kudakwashe Ndhlukula**, Executive Director of SACREEE
- **Mr Ahmed Badr**, Executive Director of RCREEE
- **Mr Tom Derksen**, Managing Director for Energy, SNV

Questions and answers from participants

For questions please contact

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