

High-Level Dialogue on Energy 2021 – Ministerial Forums Side Event

The UN Renewable Energy Offer for the Sahel

21 June 2021 – 10-11 am GMT

Introduction

The UN General Assembly, through its resolution 74/225, invited Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, with the support of the relevant UN system entities, to convene the **High-level Dialogue on Energy (HLDE)**¹ in 2021 to promote implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – specifically SDG7. Forty years after the last United Nations conference on sustainable energy, held in 1981, the High-Level Dialogue on Energy will build a grand coalition of countries, businesses and civil society **to raise ambition and accelerate action on sustainable energy** through concrete new plans. The one-day HLDE will be held at the summit level during the 76th session of the General Assembly in September 2021 in New York or virtually; the exact date and format are yet to be determined. UN-Energy Co-Chairs, Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator of UNDP, and Ms. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), have been designated as the Dialogue Co-Chairs.

The HLDE will have two main outcomes: a **global roadmap** setting out a ten-year action plan to accelerate achievement of SDG7 by 2030; and voluntary commitments and actions from Member States and other stakeholders in the form of “**Energy Compacts**”, to advance all SDG7 targets in support of achieving the SDGs by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050. A monitoring and tracking framework, supported by UN-Energy – the coordination mechanism for UN system entities that work on energy issues -- will be established to ensure progress and enable reporting back on achievements over time.

A major milestone on the road to the HLDE in September 2021 will be **Ministerial-level Thematic Forums** organized virtually over five days, **21-25 June 2021**, to bring together key stakeholders, including ministers from national governments and leaders from business, cities, civil society and youth organizations to showcase solutions and partnerships on key thematic areas related to SDG7 and present their Energy Compacts, setting out their voluntary commitments and actions.

The UN’s Renewable Energy Offer for the Sahel falls in the scope of the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) and the subsequent UN’s Support Plan for the Sahel (2018), in particular its fifth priority area “Promoting access to renewable energy”. In order to develop this offer, 17 UN agencies joined forces under the leadership of UNDP to propose an integrated approach, able to support the Sahel countries transition to a sustainable energy path and massively increase their access to clean energy. A conceptual framework was developed to take stock of ongoing UN interventions in the Sahel, detail the priority actions in the next 5 years and identify the UN’s comparative advantages in this sector. The conceptual framework is the umbrella under which a five-year UN renewable energy programme for the Sahel is currently being developed to operationalize this offer.

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/energy2021>

Overall Objective

The HLDE in September and its Ministerial Forums in June represent a **unique opportunity to highlight UNISS's work and commitment on renewable energy in the Sahel** and to capture the partners' attention by underlining the alignment of the UNISS renewable energy offer with the needs of the region and the strategic objectives of its leaders. Presenting the UN Renewable Energy Offer for the Sahel during a side event in the scope of the Ministerial Forums in June will **kickstart the engagement process with both the beneficiaries and the donors community**.

Planned Intervention

It is planned to hold a **side event on the UN Renewable Energy Offer for the Sahel** in the scope of the June Ministerial Forums to solidify the commitments of UNISS and join a global movement to advance SDG7, thus increasing its visibility and capacity to mobilize stakeholders for the cause of the Sahel. This event will also allow to raise attention on the Sahel energy crisis, bringing as speakers key representatives of ECOWAS/ECREEE², governments, SEforALL and the Youth active on climate change mitigation in the region. Other important regional actors such as the G5 Sahel, the Authority of the Liptako-Gourma (ALG), the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS) and the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) will be invited to attend the event.

This side event will be **co-organized with SEforALL**, who has recently initiated a partnership with UNDP on the Sahel.

This side event is planned to take place on **Monday 21 June, 06-07am EST/10-11am GMT** and will include live interpretation English <> French. The link to the side event is as follows:

https://undp.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QJYT7X_iQ-mQJwOICuaDag

² ECREEE is the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

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AGENDA

Time	Sessions	Speakers
10:00-10:10	Introduction – Setting the scene	Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel
10:10-10:20	Presentation of the UN Renewable Energy Offer for the Sahel	Ms. Christelle Odongo, UNDP Regional Advisor on Energy
10:20-10:55	<p>Panel discussion – Towards an Energy Compact for the Sahel: (5mn each)</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Ms. Nwanneakolam Vwede-Obahor, Office of Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel</i></p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the priorities of the offer the UN should be focusing on first? • Do you see any missing element in the offer? • Where do you see the comparative advantage of the UN in the energy sector? • In your opinion, what should be the next steps to operationalize the offer? • What challenges do you foresee in the operationalization of the offer? • How do you think a regional Energy Compact for the Sahel could help in the operationalization of the offer? 	<p>Mr. Bah Saho, Executive Director for the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE)</p> <p>Mr. Ismael Nacoulma, Managing Director, Rural Electrification Agency for Burkina Faso</p> <p>Ms. Kanika Chawla, Program Manager, UN Energy, SEforALL</p> <p>Ms. Fadji Zaoua Maïna, Earth Scientist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center</p> <p>Mr. Olumide Idowu, Co-founder and CEO, International Climate Change Development Initiative (ICCDI)</p>
10:55-11:00	Closing remarks	Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel