

Ministerial Thematic Forums

21 – 25 June 2021

Event name:

Leveraging modern energy access for all: infrastructure, climate and cooking

Event date and time:

23 June 2021, 11.30 - 12.45 EST

Organizers:

Hosted by the Government of Kenya

Co-organizers: the Africa Europe Foundation (AEF), Clean Cooking Alliance, ENERGIA, International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy, Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) Programme and The Energy Nexus Network (TENN).

Number of participants:

70 participants

Main speakers and brief summary [max 300 words]:

Main speakers:

Opening remarks by:

- Prof. Charlotte Watts, Chief Scientific Adviser, FCDO, United Kingdom
- Paul Mbuti, Deputy Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy, Kenya.

Panellists included:

- Nick Hurd, Former UK MP and Senior Advisor, Bboxx
- Madhusudhan Adhikari, Executive Director, Alternative Energy Promotion Centre, Government of Nepal
- Maxine Jordan, Energy Policy Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)
- Monojeet Pal, Division Manager, Energy Efficiency and Clean Cooking Division, African Development Bank
- Michelle Hallack, Senior Economist, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- Daniel Busche, GIZ Director, Energizing Development (EnDev)
- Tom Morton, Director, ClimateCare
- Wairimu Kimani Njehia, Manager Pika na Power programme, Kenya Power

Closing remarks by:

- Kandeh Yumkella, Co-chair of the Africa Europe Foundation Strategy Group on Energy, and former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All
- Sheila Oparaocha, International Coordinator, ENERGIA

This side event brought together experts from utilities, national governments and financiers to discuss how to leverage the gains made on electrification to accelerate action on clean cooking whilst meeting net-zero carbon targets. This includes capitalizing climate financing to make clean cooking solutions more affordable and accessible for all. Key messages that came out of the discussion was that electric cooking is becoming more affordable and suitable for the growing populations across Africa and Asia. More importantly, it offers the opportunity for rapid scaling, provided it is incorporated into modern energy infrastructure, and is the long-term solution for decarbonizing.

The event concluded with a challenge to the international community: **40, 60 by 2030**. This challenge calls for:

1. 40% for all households connected to grid or off-grid electricity to be using it for cooking by 2030.
2. 60% of those using modern energy for cooking to be generated from low-carbon sources by 2030.

This will give health, gender, environmental and economic gains.

Key outcomes [max 100 words]:

- National Planning Committees and utilities need to integrate cooking in modern energy infrastructure to ensure that electric cooking devices become more affordable and available. This will meet household aspirations for progressive cooking technology and progress gender equality by freeing up women's time.
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) need to include cooking in their targets. The use of polluting fuels such as charcoal for cooking around cities is the main source of deforestation. Electric cooking can create a feasible pathway towards a net-zero future. Joint action on climate and cooking can help to unlock climate financing to expand electric cooking.

Links to livestream recording/website/social media:

<https://mecs.org.uk/join-us-at-ministerial-thematic-forums-side-event-on-leveraging-modern-energy-access-for-all/>

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