

Renewable Energy in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Driving Climate Action towards Low Carbon and Inclusive Development in Africa

Africa Climate Week 2021

Date: 29 September 2021

Time: 10.00 am - 11.00 am (Gulf Standard Time, UTC+4)

Format: Virtual

The UN Secretary-General recently called for renewable energy and green resilient infrastructure to be prioritised in order to put the world on track in 2021. IRENA responded to this call and devised global strategies towards net-zero and a climate-safe 1.5°C pathway by 2050 in its 2021 World Energy Transitions Outlook.

The role of renewable energy and energy efficiency is already widely acknowledged as key means for the realisation of the global climate agenda. More than 170 countries have set renewable energy targets, and many of them have included them in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Nevertheless, energy related climate pledges under these initial NDCs are insufficient to achieve climate objectives and clean energy goals at both the national and sub-national levels are needed.

To further the energy transition and attract the investments needed in the long and short term, ambitious climate and clean energy targets are essential at both national and sub-national levels. In addition to the proposed or passed laws around net zero emissions in many jurisdictions, ambitions expressed in the NDCs must be raised beyond the power sector and strengthened through adaptation and mitigation solutions.

Beyond enhancing NDCs, promoting holistic policymaking can help devise national strategies truly address multiple socio-economic objectives and enable an inclusive and just transition. In doing so, it is crucial to ensure coherence among sectors affected by energy transition, such as, water and agri-food value chain, provision of essential public services (health, education) and promotion of productive use of energy.

This event will present the latest findings on the energy transition drawing from IRENA's flagship publication *World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5°C Pathway (2021 edition)* and contextualize it in the African context. Further, will showcase the many options that African governments have to help them navigate towards an energy transition by exploring existing technology and innovation solutions for implementing mitigation and adaptation measures.

Building on these insights, representatives from African governments will provide insights into the work being done in their respective countries to achieve the proposed climate action goals, as well as showcase examples of new patterns of socio-economic development achieved through prioritization of renewable energy development.

A panel will discuss current initiatives, as well as outline the main achievements and challenges encountered in African context and identify key opportunities for incorporating development needs to achieve low-carbon climate safe energy systems. Participants will also hear from international organisations that help advise and assist countries in implementing their NDCs.

Potential partners: UK COP26 Presidency Africa, Africa Chair of Africa Group of Negotiators, Green Climate Fund, Africa Group of Negotiators.

Draft Programme:

Time (UTC+4)	Program	Description (TBD)
10:00-10:20	Welcome remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC
10:20 – 10:30	Presentation on World Energy Transitions Outlook (WETO): 1.5°C Pathway	<p>WETO - Technological opportunities and challenges for a reliable and resilient energy transition – Simon Benmarraze, IITC, IRENA</p> <p>WETO- Just Transition – Ulrike Lehr, KPFC, IRENA</p>
10:30-11:00	Plenary Discussion: <i>Renewable Energy in NDCs driving energy transformation & inclusive development in Africa</i>	<u>Moderator</u> ; Gurbuz Gonul, Director, CEP IRENA <u>Panelists</u> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC
Closing remarks: IRENA, Head of Regions, <i>Binu Parthan</i>		