



CSE-24/2015/INF.16

COP21 United Nations Side Event Pathways to Sustainable Energy for a Climate Friendly World

DATE: 7 December 2015, 18:30 – 20:00

VENUE: Le Bourget site, Blue Zone, Room 3

BACKGROUND

The energy sector is the largest contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions. In 2010, the energy sector was responsible for approximately 35% of total anthropogenic GHG emissions. GHG emissions grew more rapidly between 2000 and 2010 than in the previous decade.¹ On the other end of the spectrum, nearly 1.3 billion people are without access to electricity and 2.7 billion people rely on the traditional use of biomass for cooking² in the world today. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 7) sets the goal to “*ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*”. There exists a certain level of controversy in pathways to achieving what seems like competing agendas: the SDG 7 and its simultaneous benefits on poverty eradication and powering growth, and reducing GHG emissions. The session will explore transformative approaches needed to address climate change and the numerous environmental, health and economic co-benefits that exist from mitigation and adaptation best practices.

OBJECTIVE

The event will offer a space for partners, participants and stakeholders to discuss how the UN system provides expertise and solutions for low-carbon pathways whilst ensuring access to affordable, modern and sustainable energy. The session will further present the co-benefits of achieving GHG emissions reduction and the environment, human health and economy.

The main objectives of the session are:

- To present practical solutions for low-carbon development provided by UNS to support countries in moving toward sustainable energy through selected success stories and science based assessments
- To nurture partnerships within UNS and non-UN actors by exploring avenues for collaborative efforts

FORMAT

The session will host a panel discussion with high level representatives from UN agencies, private sector, and civil society organizations.

¹ The 5th Assessment Report, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2014)

² World Energy Outlook 2014 (International Energy Agency, 2015)

PROGRAMME

Time (min)	Description
18:30 – 18:35	Opening remarks: Chair will open the session with short welcome remarks
18:35 – 18:50	A key note: Prof. Nakicenovic, IIASA Sustainable energy in the context of SDG and climate action
18:50 – 19:30	<p>Panel discussion</p> <p>Key energy experts from both private sector and civil societies will be engaged in interactive discussions based on their experiences working with UN partners to achieve significant impact on the ground in the context of climate action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Li Yong, Director General of UNIDO • Christian Friis Bach, Executive Secretary of UNECE • Mikhail Chudakov, Deputy Director General NE, IAEA • Ajay Mathur, CEO-designate, TERI • Cipriano Marín, Coordinator of the 100% Renewable Islands Initiative (RENISLA) • Hans Jorgen Koch, CEO, Nordic Council of Ministers • TBC
19:30 – 19:50	Q&A: the floor will open for questions and comments from the participants.
19:50 – 20:00	Closing: the chair will summarize the discussion and close the session

GUIDING QUESTIONS

The panel discussion will be formulated around the following guiding questions:

1. What are the challenges and opportunities in embarking on sustainable energy pathways for a climate friendly world?
2. What are the immediate energy priorities for the global community after COP21?
3. How can the UN System assist countries in their sustainable energy priorities, i.e. mitigating and/ or adapting to climate change impacts?