
17th Extraordinary Assembly of the African Union Heads of State and Government on Industrialization, Economic Diversification and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

PANEL DISCUSSION

**Accelerating RE and EE Markets to foster industrialization
Through regional collaboration in Africa**

21 November 2022 - 11AM to 12:45PM CET

VIA ZOOM:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYudOqqpiorGNNlyDzRQhXn13u-Ocpt7Kup>

Increased access to sustainable and reliable energy is a key enabler for the ambitious industrialization roadmap of Africa. Many countries have significantly scaled up their efforts in the past decades but we are still far away to achieve the targets outlined in the SDGs. Renewable energy deployment and energy efficiency play a major role in supporting the African Union Agenda 2063 that sets out the vision of the Continent for the next fifty years, including a vision to set a single electricity market on the continent. Setting such a market is expected to facilitate the optimization of Africa's renewable energy sources to achieve 100 per cent access to electricity by 2030.

The African Union (AU) launched the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) to pave the way to the SDG7 goal, covering the African Union's 55 Member States and a population of more than 1.3 billion with a growing demand and consumer purchasing power. Undertaken under the African Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, AfSEM aims to harmonise regulatory frameworks and integrate generation, transmission and distribution masterplans.

The Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is the African continent's most ambitious integration initiative, embedded in the Agenda 2063 of the African Union, whose main objective is to create a single continental market for products and services with free movement of people and investments, thus expanding intra-African trade across the continent, enhancing competitiveness and supporting economic transformation in Africa. The expansion and harmonization of regional renewable energy and energy efficiency product and service markets is an important pillar of the AfCFTA and can become an accelerator of the continent's energy and climate transition. This vision goes beyond the interconnection of transmission lines and pipelines and includes the entire value chain of sustainable energy product manufacturing and servicing.

If the AfSEM focuses on the regulatory framework and on a continental masterplan, and AfCFTA is developing an energy continental strategy, collaboration at regional levels to achieve the 2030 goal and to pave the way to Agenda 2063 play a major role.

In order to achieve these ambitious targets, regional collaboration is crucial. Over the past decade, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in close partnership with regional economic communities (RECs) has established the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC). Under this joint platform, UNIDO provides support for the creation of renewable energy and energy efficiency centers, and facilitates south-south and triangular cooperation on energy solutions of mutual interest. With the recently established Central African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CEREEAC), the network covers the entire African continent and complements the important work of the regional power pools and regulators.

As part of the economic integration efforts of the RECs, the GN-SEC centres aim to accelerate the energy transition by creating economies of scales, equal progress and spill-over effects between countries. The integration and harmonization of sustainable energy product and service markets is an important cornerstone of their work. In this context, an interesting example for south-south cooperation is the area of energy efficiency. Through the regional centres, ECOWAS, SADC, EAC and Arab countries have developed regional minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) for electric appliances, which are currently nationally implemented. The Energy Efficient Lighting and Appliances (EELA) project in East and Southern Africa is a successful example of such. The project is implemented by UNIDO in collaboration with SACREEE and EACREEE. The project aims to achieve a market transformation towards energy efficient household and productive use appliances, among others, through the regional harmonization of policies and standards.

Actions to strengthen the local productive and innovation capacities of energy businesses and entrepreneurs is a particular focus of the GN-SEC. This is done by setting fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, local content requirements, product and service standards, support for R&D, qualification and certification and quality infrastructure.

In a continent with growing economies, growing energy demand, and by the matter of fact increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, regional collaboration is key to support the development of continental energy strategy as foreseen by the AfCFTA and a market masterplan to ensure minimum standard, market uptake and monitoring.

Within the framework of the African Union Commission (AUC) Summit on Industrialisation, UNIDO and its partners are organising a side event titled **“Accelerating RE and EE Markets to foster industrialization through regional collaboration in Africa”**. This side event will be held virtually on 21 November from 11AM to 12:45PM CET in the margin of the 17th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of the AU Heads of State and Government on Industrialization, Economic Diversification and AfCFTA. The summit is held in Niamey, Niger, from 20 to 25 November 2022.

OBJECTIVE

Showcasing successful examples of regional collaboration and exploring opportunities for scaling up regional interventions supporting the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)’s energy strategy and the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM)’s masterplan, exploring regional collaborations potential for a continental RE and EE markets uptake. The meeting will further elaborate on opportunities for localising value chains through developing RE and EE Markets.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE SIDE EVENT

- Overview of existing and potential African regional collaborations in terms of RE and EE markets to foster industrialisation towards the achievement of the 2030 goals in line with Agenda 2063 with an overview of the political continental integration complexities, as well as continental economic integration for RE and EE markets is provided.
- Successful examples of regional projects supporting the harmonisation of policies and removing market barriers are shared.

- Awareness on the importance of supply(ier)-side support, local content requirements, quality infrastructure and standards for the African sustainable energy industry providing examples to foster the harmonisation of the energy markets in Africa is strengthened.
- Lessons learnt and recommendations on facilitating the way forward in terms of institutional actors' collaboration in terms of developing regional energy markets to foster industrialization are shared.

AGENDA

Accelerating RE and EE Markets to foster industrialization Through regional collaboration in Africa	
21 November 2022 - 11AM to 12:45PM CET	
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYudOqqpiorGNNlyDzRQhXn13u-Ocpt7Kup	
11:00	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Tareq Emtairah, Director, Division of Decarbonization & Sustainable Energy (DSE), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
11:05	<p><u>Scene setting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Otalia Sacko, UNIDO <i>Introducing UNIDO's work on regional collaboration, showcasing project examples and introducing the Mini-Grid policy tool kit</i>
11:15	<p><u>Panel Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Moderator</u>: Ms. Rana Ghoneim, Chief, Energy Systems and Decarbonization Unit (DSE/ESD), UNIDO <p><u>Expected panellists</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mr. Rashid Abdallah, Executive Director of African Energy Commission (AFREC), African Union Commission ▪ Mr. David Lecoque, Director General, Alliance for Rural Electrification (ARE) ▪ Mr. Francis Semporé, Executive Director, ECOWAS Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) ▪ Mr. Jalel Chabchoub, Chief Energy Efficiency Officer, African Development Bank (AfDB) ▪ Ms. Kornelia Ipinge, Project Coordinator, SADC Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship Support Facility, SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE)
12:40	<p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Rana Ghoneim, Chief, Energy Systems and Decarbonization Unit (DSE/ESD), UNIDO

FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT

- AfCFTA : <https://au-afcfta.org/>
- AfSEM : <https://au.int/en/afsem>
- GN-SEC : <https://www.gn-sec.net/>
- EELA project [HERE](#)
- Contact at UNIDO, Energy Systems and Decarbonization Unit (DSE/ESD):
 - Rana Ghoneim: R.GHONEIM@unido.org
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 - Martin Lugmayr: M.LUGMAYR@unido.org
 - Otalia Sacko: O.SACKO@unido.org