

The Placencia Ambition Forum

BREAKOUT GROUP: ENERGY

In order to achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by mid-century, drastic and urgent global transformation is required in the energy sector. All small island developing states (SIDS) have demonstrated their commitment for transitioning towards Renewable Energy, as reflected in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Notwithstanding the heterogeneity of the small island developing states, there is great potential for advancing renewable energy resources in SIDS, and numerous co-benefits in moving away from reliance on fossil fuels. Recently, there has also been an increase in overall global energy aid, and expansion of frameworks for capacity building for energy transition. Numerous international and regional organizations are active in SIDS, supporting deployment of renewable energy.

At the same time, there are a number of regulatory, economic, structural and institutional barriers which inhibits the achievement of ambitious renewable energy targets. This breakout session aims to identify these challenges, and discuss how they can be addressed in light of best practices and potential opportunities, with the objective of overcoming the obstacles to raising climate ambition nationally, regionally and globally.

OBJECTIVES

1. Share knowledge on national and regional renewable energy initiatives aligned with the ambitious energy commitments in NDCs.
2. Share experiences and lessons learned from the implementation process, from policy considerations to stakeholder engagement, in order to update and achieve renewable energy targets.
3. Discuss persistent barriers and emerging challenges related to energy transition, and identify solutions to address these issues

AGENDA & PARTICIPANTS

Caribbean, Americas & Pacific

Monday 20 April 2020 (1715 New York // 2215 London // 0915(+1) Auckland) 90 minutes

Time	Country	Speaker and organization	Topic
	UNDESA	Mr. Minoru Takada, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Moderator)	Welcome and introduction
3-5 min	Palau	Mr. Tutii Chilton, Palau Energy Administration, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries & Commerce	With one of the most ambitious energy targets in the Pacific, Palau will highlight the work that is being undertaken to update and revise the energy component of the NDC, as well as the policy/fiscal measures that are being considered for implementation of the targets. The presentation will offer insights into organizations or entities which are supporting Palau's Renewable Energy Plans, along with an outline on challenges and potential solutions, which is particularly relevant in the current situation regarding COVID-19.
3-5 min	Cuba	Mr. Ulises Fernández Gómez, International Relations Division, Ministry	Cuba is one of the countries in the region that has made significant progress in installed renewable energy capacity. The presentation will highlight how this transition was enabled, which

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		of Sciences Technology and Environment	policy/fiscal measures were utilized, and which organizations or entities Cuba has been working with in this area. Insights into how the energy component is being considered in the context of Cuba's new/updated NDC, what the persistent and new challenges are (especially in light of the COVID-19 situation), and best practices and lessons learned will be discussed.
3-5 min	Belize	Mr. Geon Hanson, Ministry of Public Services, Energy and Public Utilities	Belize will highlight key national initiatives which are being undertaken to enable the renewable energy transition, and the practical challenges associated with the deployment of renewable energy.
3-5 min		Mr. Vineil, Narayan, Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF)	Taking into account that one of the biggest challenges in the energy sector in SIDS is access to electricity in rural communities, FREF will discuss the work that has been undertaken, including in the village of Vio. Perspectives describing how indigenous peoples/local communities are engaged in the consultations, and how FREF works with the Government and other relevant entities in the overall transition towards clean/renewable energy, in accordance with Fiji's NDC.
3-5 min		United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Presentation to highlight the points on the impacts of COVID-19 on the implementation of NDCs, progress on delivery of the Climate Promise in the regions as well as support provided.
3-5 min		Ms. Arieta Gonelevu Rakai, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)	Enhancing Ambition: Regional opportunities for ambitious low-carbon development and adaptation
30 min	Facilitated Dialogue	Mr. Minoru Takada, UN DESA (Moderator) Dr. Gary Jackson, CCREEE (Discussant) Mr. Devon Gardner, CARICOM Secretariat (Discussant) Mr. Andrés Schuschny, OLADE (Discussant) Mr. Akuila Tawke, SPC (Discussant)	Facilitated dialogue aimed at answering the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What renewable energy targets are included in a country's current and updated NDC? 2. Describe plans for implementation and potential barriers or challenges anticipated? 3. In projects which were implemented, how well were they tailored to deliver on the requirements of the country? Who were the stakeholders involved in consultations?

Africa, Indian and South China Seas, Europe

Tuesday 21 April 2020 (0430 New York // 0930 London // 2030 Auckland) 90mins

Time	Country	Speaker and organization	Topic
	OHRLLS	Ms. Shifaana Thowfeeq, Office of the High Representative for Landlocked, Least Developed and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS) (Moderator)	Welcome and introduction
3-5 min	Comoros	Ms. Ahmed Karim Farida, Ministry of Energy	Taking into account the call for more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions, which includes enhancement of the Energy component of the NDCs, the presentation will focus on plans in Comoros to undertake these commitments through policy/fiscal measures, the challenges faced, organizations and entities supporting Comoros, as well as recommendations outlining how the international community can assist. Perspectives on international support is particularly relevant due to the resource challenges caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.
3-5 min	Seychelles	Mr. Radley Weber, VetiverTech Pty Ltd	Highlights on the engagement and contribution of Private sector, civil society and stakeholders to the process of implementing the renewable targets and setting out new targets. Contributions from specific organizations and entities that the Seychelles Government is working with, and the measures in place to ensure a holistic, inclusive approach in transitioning to renewable energy will be featured.
3-5 min	Cabo Verde	Ms. Miriam Caetano Veracruz, Luxembourg Development Cooperation Agency	Taking into account the ambitious of Cabo Verde achieve 100% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025, efforts which are being undertaken by the Government, including in the revision and implementation of the NDC, and organizations and entities supporting the process will be highlighted. Furthermore, a brief overview of challenges faced, including grid connectivity across islands, the large upfront capital investments which are required to enable the transition, and the potential solutions to address these barriers.
3-5 min	Bhutan	Mr. Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, LDC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Initiative for Sustainable Development (LDC REEEI)	Taking into account the goal set out by LDCs to reach net zero GHG emissions by 2050, the presentation will highlight the actions being undertaken across LDCs specifically in the energy sector. It will also provide an update on the initiative on access to sustainable energy for the least developed countries launched during the 2019 Climate Action Summit. It will also highlight some of the persistent challenges faced in LDCs in energy transition, new challenges, including the COVID-19 outbreak, and how the international community can assist in preserving the ambition which was envisioned.
3-5 min		UNDP	Presentation to highlight the points on the impacts of COVID-19 on the implementation of NDCs, progress on delivery of the Climate Promise in the regions as well as support provided.
3-5 min		Mr. Gurbuz Gonul, IRENA	Enhancing Ambition: Regional opportunities for ambitious low-carbon development and adaptation (Africa, Asia, Europe)
30 min	Facilitated Dialogue	Ms. Shifaana Thowfeeq, OHRLLS (Moderator)	Facilitated dialogue aimed an answering the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What renewable energy targets are included in a country's current and updated NDC? 2. Describe plans for implementation and potential barriers or challenges anticipated?

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		<p>United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (Discussant)</p> <p>Mr. David Jacobs, Germany (Discussant)</p> <p>Mr. Rolf Traeger, UNCTAD (Discussant)</p> <p>Denmark (tbc)</p>	<p>3. In projects which were implemented, how well were they tailored to deliver on the requirements of the country? Who were the stakeholders involved in consultations?</p>