

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

30 NOVEMBER – 12 DECEMBER 2023

THE SOLAR HUB



THE ROLE OF SOLAR IN ENERGY TRANSITION AND INVESTMENT PLANS

In Collaboration with



Thematic Arena 3, TA3-190, Opportunity District, Expo City, Dubai

8 DECEMBER, 2023 | 15:00 PM – 16:30 PM

Background & Rationale

This panel will examine how to ensure the solar sector in developing countries creates economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods for marginalized groups, including women, youth, rural communities, and displaced fossil fuel workers.

To gain momentum on announced pledges or to formulate an action plan for implementation, countries conduct energy transition and investment plans (ETIPs). Medium to long-term energy planning can produce insights that can inform policies and policy decisions. ETIPs improve understanding, identify consequences and recognize uncertainties and risks. They convey a clear and impactful perspective on decarbonization, through an assessment of the impact of decarbonization technologies, effectiveness and feasibility. ETIPs assess a comprehensive range of decarbonization strategies and their potential implications, including means, benefits, and costs associated with each strategy. With ETIPs, countries will be better equipped to undergo the transition.

ETIPs employ a wide range of technologies for achieving net-zero targets and are customized to each country. The technology mix is selected based on the least cost option. In this context, solar PV plays an important role in the transition due to its lowest levelized cost of energy¹. To reach net-zero by mid-century, generation from solar PV must increase to more than 23,000 TWh by 2050, which is equivalent to around 90% of all generated electricity globally in 2020². It is also best suited to provide electricity access in remote areas. With around 675 million people without access to electricity, the world is not on track to achieve universal electricity access by 2030³. However, solar has the potential to solve this challenge. For example, Rwanda with an electricity access rate of 65.7% has announced its plan to achieve 100% electrification by 2024 by electrifying 48% of the households with off-grid solutions such as solar home systems⁴.

Overview

This panel will highlight the role of solar in energy transition plans and examine how to ensure the solar sector in developing countries creates economic opportunities and sustainable livelihoods for marginalized groups, including women, youth, rural communities, and displaced fossil fuel workers.

¹ <https://about.bnef.com/blog/cost-of-new-renewables-temporarily-rises-as-inflation-starts-to-bite/?s=09>

² <https://www.seforall.org/data-stories/seforall-analysis-of-sdg7-progress>

³ https://iea.blob.core.windows.net/assets/deebef5d-0c34-4539-9d0c-10b13d840027/NetZeroBy2050-ARoadmapfortheGlobalEnergySector_CORR.pdf

⁴ <https://allafrica.com/stories/202309010100.html#>

	<p>As countries transition to clean energy, the expansion of solar power offers potential for new jobs and enterprises. The solar industry is the fastest-growing sector and accounted for more than a third of the total renewable energy workforce in 2022, with 4.9 million jobs. Women represent 40% of the full-time positions in the solar PV sector, almost twice as much as in the wind or the oil and gas sectors. Although encouraging, their representation across solar PV job roles is uneven, with the most frequently hired jobs for administrative positions⁵. Thus, proactive policies and interventions are required to make these opportunities truly inclusive and equitable, and to ease women's entry into the industry. The proposed panel will reflect upon the role of solar in energy transition planning and in particular, discuss strategies and recommendations to ensure this growth in the solar sector drives an inclusive, just transition that creates jobs, entrepreneurship opportunities, and skills training for marginalized demographics.</p>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A holistic understanding of the role of solar in energy transition plans. ▪ Share experiences on what policy and regulatory frameworks have worked on deploying large scale solar programs ▪ Share perspectives on ensuring an inclusive, just transition to solar power ▪ Discuss needs and opportunities for skills training for solar jobs and broaden participation in solar workforce ▪ Identify approaches to support solar entrepreneurship, targeting marginalized demographics
Agenda	
15:00 - 15:05 PM	<p>Welcome and Opening Remarks Joshua Wycliffe, Chief of Operations, ISA Secretariat</p>
15:05 - 15:10 PM	<p>Keynote Address Shri Dinesh Dayanand Jagdale, Joint Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India</p>
15:10 - 15:25 PM	<p>Setting the Context: The Role of Solar in Energy Transition and Investment Plans Alvin Jose, Programme Manager – Energy Transition Planning, SEforALL</p>
15:25 - 16:05 PM	<p>Panel Discussion on Strategies to Broaden Opportunities to Scale Solar and Create New Jobs, Value Chains and Enable a Just Transition Moderator Alvin Jose, SEforALL</p> <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ing. Oscar Amonoo-Neizer, Executive Secretary, Ghana Energy Commission ▪ David Mutisiya, Senior Director of Renewable Energy, Ministry of Energy of Kenya ▪ Hongpeng Liu, Director, Energy Division, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific ▪ Rana Adib, Executive Director, REN21 ▪ Sonia Dunlop, CEO of Global Solar Council
16:05 - 16:20 PM	<p>Q&A Interventions from the audience</p>
16:20 - 16:30 PM	<p>Concluding Remarks Joshua Wycliffe, Chief of Operations, International Solar Alliance</p>

⁵ https://mc-cd8320d4-36a1-40ac-83cc-3389-cdn-endpoint.azureedge.net/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2023/Sep/IRENA_Renewable_energy_and_jobs_2023.pdf?rev=4c35bf5a1222429e8f0bf932a641f818

