

# UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

30 NOVEMBER – 12 DECEMBER 2023

## THE SOLAR HUB



# ILLUMINATING POSSIBILITIES: SOLAR ENERGY'S CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

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

12 DECEMBER, 2023 | 12:30 PM – 14:00 PM

<p><b>Background &amp; Rationale</b></p>	<p>In 2011, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution on “Access to Modern Energy Services for All,” explicitly affirmed that access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy is essential for eradicating poverty and fostering economic development. Moreover, the Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) adopted as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to ensure “access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.” This goal emphasizes the international commitment to making energy accessible as a means of improving living conditions, promoting equality, and protecting human dignity.</p> <p>Solar energy plays a pivotal role in human development by offering a sustainable and clean source of power that addresses multiple crucial aspects of modern life. It provides access to electricity in remote and off-grid regions, fostering economic development and improving living standards. Furthermore, solar energy reduces reliance on finite fossil fuels, mitigates environmental degradation, and combats climate change, safeguarding the planet for future generations. Its versatility in applications, from residential rooftop systems to large-scale power plants, ensures energy security and independence, while also creating job opportunities and driving innovation in the renewable energy sector. In essence, solar energy serves as a catalyst for human development, promoting energy access, environmental stewardship, and economic growth.</p>
<p><b>Session Objectives</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To explore the intersection of universal energy access and human development as a powerful catalyst for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the intrinsic link between energy, dignity, and socio-economic development.</li> <li>To discuss the role of international organizations, governments, and civil society in advancing policies and initiatives that promote universal energy access through solar energy impacting human development, and how these efforts can contribute to the realization of the SDGs, particularly those related to poverty eradication, health, education, and environmental sustainability.</li> <li>To foster a collaborative dialogue among panelists and attendees on actionable recommendations and strategies for policymakers, businesses, and advocates to effectively integrate human development into solar-energy-based solutions for energy access initiatives, with a view to accelerating progress towards the SDGs and leaving no one behind.</li> </ol>

<b>Potential Outcomes</b>	<p>(a) A deeper understanding of the critical connection between universal energy access, human development, and the SDGs.</p> <p>(b) Exemplars of impact on human development through energy access.</p> <p>(c) Awareness about innovative approaches and best practices for utilizing solar energy to provide universal access to clean and reliable energy.</p> <p>(d) Potential recommendations for policymakers, business leaders, and advocates on how to effectively integrate the human development into solar energy initiatives.</p>
<b>Agenda</b>	
12:30 - 12:40 PM	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Hon. Maciu Katamotu Nalumisa</b>, Minister for Housing and Local Government Fiji</p>
12:40 - 13:30 PM	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <p><b>Sunayana Bhatnagar</b>, Legal Analyst ISA</p> <p><b>Panellists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Irina Lazzerini</b>, Principal Specialist - Clean Energy, SEforALL</li> <li>▪ <b>Nar Bahadur Khatiwora</b>, Programme Specialist (APAC), ISA</li> <li>▪ <b>Kamran Siddiqui</b>, Associate Programme Officer – Energy Access, IRENA</li> <li>▪ <b>Surabhi Rajagopal</b>, Senior Program Manager, SELCO Foundation</li> </ul>
13:30 - 13:40 PM	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
13:40 - 13:50 PM	<b>Closing Remarks – ISA</b>

