



Event Organisers: Caritas Africa, Caritas Niger, Caritas Zambia, Sun 24, Caritas Kenya and Caritas Burkina Faso

Theme: Partnerships with Faith-Based Entities to Promote Access to Clean Water and Sanitation Through Energy Efficient Solutions; Towards AU Agenda 2063 And UN Agenda 2030.

1.0 Introduction

The socio-economic development of Africa is affected by multiple crises as a result of the pandemic, armed conflicts/wars, food crisis, climate change and sovereign debt. As a result, African economies are obliged to reduce budget allocations towards water supply and clean energy. Yet, water plays a crucial role in the socio-economic development of Africa especially in the food, energy and health sectors. Additionally, Climate change has led to water stress in various parts of the continent. Worryingly, the African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Africa Development Bank in the [Africa Water Vision, 2025](#) estimate that by 2025, 230 million Africans will be facing water scarcity, and up to 460 million will be living in water-stressed areas. In the face of such calamities, faith-based actors such as local Caritas organisations respond to the need of local communities through community led project such as: construction of solar powered water infrastructure and training communities on management of shared water resources. As state and non-state actors work towards an inclusive and green recovery, faith actors are desirous to share their innovations, experiences, perspectives, challenges and proposed solutions. For the reason that they are driven by values and promote the relationship between spiritual commitment and, social ecological practices.

2.0 Objectives and Overall contribution to ARFSD 9

[Caritas Africa](#) is a network of 46 National Catholic charity organisations spread out in 46 African countries. These local Caritas organisations implement emergency relief and development projects through an integral ecology approach. This side event on the margins of the 9th African Regional Forum on Sustainable development will be Co-organized with [Sun 24](#) and Caritas Organisations in 2023 VNR countries. The objectives of the session are to : (1) Facilitate experience sharing by faith-based entities on water issues such as: water scarcity, water related conflicts, water resource management and pollution (2) demonstrate the role of local communities in the management of water resources (3) promote partnerships with multi-stakeholders in innovate approaches in the water-energy nexus.

3.0 Event format speakers and panellists

- **Introduction and event overview- Moderator (TBC) (7 mins);**
- **Keynote speech- Government Representative from Niger (TBC);** Innovative approaches in Niger to tackle climate change and minimise threats to the environment in the water-energy and food nexus **(10 minutes);**
- **Panel discussion (28 minutes):**
 - **Mr. Isacko Jirma Molu - Caritas Marsabit in Kenya:** *the role of the local Church in facilitating access to water in the context of famine and hunger crisis (7 mins);*
 - **Mr. Kevin McLean - Sun 24:** *Lessons learnt from SUN 24 in supporting developing countries in Africa with farming, cook stoves and solar lights (7 mins)*
 - **Academia representative in Burkina Faso (TBC)-** *Solutions to promote water and energy security in the Sabel (7 mins)*
 - **Ms. Luisa Fondello - Caritas Europa –** *The EU-Africa global gateway investment package: recommendations from Civil Society on accelerating the green transition (7 mins)*
- **Question and answer & experience sharing (35 mins); Conclusion and wrap up (10 mins)**

4.0 Target group

Representatives of local and national Governments, UN ECA, African Union, Media, Local Communities, Faith-based entities, Civil Society Coalitions, Academia, Private sector, UN Officials, National Caritas Agencies in the 2023 VNR countries **and** Caritas Internationalis Member organisations