



**THE 9<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, NIAMEY, NIGER**

**Side event application**

<b>Theme of the session</b>	<b>Energy Access</b>
<b>Organization(s) Name</b>	-Alliance of Civil Society Organizations for Clean Energy Access-ACCESS Coalition
<b>Type of Organization(s)</b>	Civil Society Organizations
<b>Country(s)</b>	Africa region
<b>Website(s)</b>	<a href="https://access-coalition.org/">https://access-coalition.org/</a> <a href="https://www.kccwg.org/">https://www.kccwg.org/</a>
<b>Contact Person(s) details</b>	Name: Grace Ronoh Title: Programme Officer Telephone: +254 741725508 Email: <a href="mailto:Programmes@access-coalition.org">Programmes@access-coalition.org</a>

**Working Title:**

Reviewing gains and opportunities for accelerating the implementation of SDG 7 in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Session Summary:**

The provision of modern energy services can have a transformative effect on economic standing, health, education, poverty, and inequality. Sustainable Development Goal 7 on Energy (SDG7) sets a target to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services by 2030, with indicators for access to electricity and access to clean cooking fuels and technologies. To date, countries across the African region have implemented a variety of policies, strategies, and programs to close the gap in energy access, with varying degrees of success.

The majority of the energy sector in the region still faces low performance. Grid reliability remains a challenge, while off-grid installations are often insufficient to meet demand. Access to clean cooking also remains lowest in the region with a high dependency on biomass which brings accompanying negative effects on health and the environment.

This side event on the sidelines of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development will be useful in assessing the gains made in the implementation of SDG 7 on Affordable and clean energy for all. The session will be useful in identifying opportunities available to scale energy access issues in the region this includes data and evidence generation, implementation, and reporting of SDG 7. We will also share learnings on progress from countries in the region that have been able to achieve 90% access. The side event is geared towards providing a platform for sharing energy access best practices and experience sharing from energy players and development partners to foster learning and collaborative synergies.

The session will also be useful in intersectionality between SDGs, especially how energy access can accelerate the energy transition conversation in Sub-Saharan Africa. The session will focus on people-centered and inclusive clean energy transitions in the Sub-Saharan African region. The speakers will share from their vast experiences and knowledge on planning for energy processes at the national and regional levels.

#### Session Format

This will be in the form of a Panel discussion.

#### Expected Outcomes and Actions

- Lessons and opportunities shared in the forum will inform policy discussion across Africa to accelerate the implementation of SDG 7 in this Decade of Action.
- That there will be more understanding and commitment towards Energy compacts including the ACCESS Coalition Compact.
- That there will be increased commitments from key players and governments on the financing of SDG 7 in Sub-Saharan Africa.

#### ABOUT ACCESS COALITION

Alliance of Civil Society Organizations for Clean Energy Access (ACCESS Coalition) is a global coalition of over 100 organizations working at the local, national, regional, and international levels delivering energy services to poor and marginal communities, carrying out research, capacity building, and advocacy, and working with communities, businesses, governments, international donors and investors. ACCESS works to advocate for people living in poverty to have access to safe, reliable, and affordable energy, and for environmentally sustainable and efficient energy systems globally.

To better understand the underlying issues and opportunities, Access Coalition recently undertook rigorous, systematic meta-analyses of the survey to quantify the impacts of policies and programs designed to provide access to electricity and access to clean cooking fuels and technologies.

Access Coalition's assessment of the implementation of SDG 7 in the three East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania, demonstrated that while clean cooking programmes provided statistically significant benefits to communities, all three governments have not allocated any budgets to this area.

The review found that electricity access interventions led to positive educational outcomes for children, including an increase in study time and total years of schooling. Based on both quantitative and qualitative findings, electrification also demonstrates positive impacts on gender empowerment.

In 2021, ACCESS Coalition was on the of the High-level Dialogue on Energy which sought to accelerate action towards implementation of SDG 7. The outcome of this was the commitment to Energy compacts. ACCESS also developed an Energy Compact as a commitment towards SDG 7. ACCESS coalition has been a champion of the implementation of SDGs by providing opportunities for dialogue on Voluntary National reviews (VNR), a reporting mechanism for SDGs. We work to ensure accountability in the implementation of SDG 7 in the region and also share learnings from different regions.

Meeting the SDG7 target of universal access will require an improved understanding amongst a diverse range of policymakers of the opportunities, benefits, and trade-offs of the considerations within energy access policy and program design. ACCESS Coalition has been actively participating in the annual African region SDG forums. This year's forum is therefore an opportune moment for the ACCESS coalition to share and be part of the Dialogue and learnings on the implementation of SDGs in Africa and defining unique opportunities available to accelerated implementation of SDGs in the region.

**Contact:**

**Grace Ronoh**

**ACCESS Coalition**

[Programmes@access-coalition.org](mailto:Programmes@access-coalition.org)

[www.access-coalition.org](http://www.access-coalition.org)