



Alliance of Civil Society
Organisations for
Clean Energy Access

SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

Seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development

Proposed topic: *A just Energy transition is key to delivering climate action in Africa*

Background

[The seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#) is being convened under the theme “**Building forward better: Towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.** Our side event is themed: ***A just Energy transition is key to delivering climate action in Africa.*** Both themes acknowledge the importance of reconstructing our socioeconomic systems by leveraging opportunities presented by green and low carbon development trajectories with a view to building a resilient, inclusive and sustainable Africa.

For this to be achieved, there is need for a coordinated push at all levels to accelerate energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources within the ten year window provided by the decade of action. Only a just transition can be successful; getting a Just energy Transition requires a whole society- approach of ‘leave no one behind’. Further decarbonising energy use requires fundamental innovation, transfer of technologies, strategic approach to policy making, innovative business models as well as increasing incentives for investments coupled with making financing affordable and accessible to those who need it most. The need for a just, sustainable energy transition for climate action is even more urgent given the opportunities and risks associated with Covid-19 response and recovery packages, including Multi-lateral development banks recovery support. Will these catalyse a just, green recovery, with renewable and efficient energy systems for all or lock African countries further into high-carbon energy infrastructure?

Overall objective

To promote evidence-based discussion among a range of stakeholders, including government, DFIs, investors, business and civil society representatives, on the future energy finance, policy and technical support needed in the Africa continent to deliver a just energy transition for climate action.

Key dimensions to be explored

1. What is a just energy transition and why do we need one? Are there risks that come with framing this just transition & how is Africa involved in this conceptualization? Who pays for this just transition & what needs to be paid for? How can Africa prioritize a just Energy transition?
2. How JUST is a just energy transition? How do we ensure an inclusive and efficient transition that ensures shared benefits for all along the value chain including workers, rural and urban communities?
3. Is the current regulation/policy aligned to the push for a just energy transition? How can CSOs meaningfully contribute to this just transition? How can private sector and governments ensure the regulatory approaches are market based and inclusive?

4. What happens to states that depend on oil and gas? How can financial flows from MDBs & DFIs and contract transparency contribute to a just transition?
5. How will women, youth and the vulnerable & marginalized be affected by the transition? What kind of safety nets can be applied to enhance their resilience? What kind of partnerships can do we require to cushion communities from the social impacts of the transition?
6. Due to the inequality of access, how can Covid-19 recovery be aligned to ensure that it is green, promotes community resilience & enhances economic recovery as well?

Moderator: John Kioli - Chairman, Kenya Climate Change Working Group Association

Panellists

1. Prof. Yacob Mulugetta - Professor of Energy and Development Policy at the University College London & Founding member, African Climate Policy Centre
2. Dr. Yohannes Hailu - Energy Economist, UN Economic Commission for Africa
3. Jacqueline Kimeu - Coordinator, ACCESS Coalition
4. Johannes Schroeten - Researcher, E3G
5. Chibeze Ezekiel - Director, Strategic Youth Network for Development, Ghana

Discussants (To be confirmed)

1. Maimuna Kabatesi - Country Engagement Officer, Hivos
2. Thembinkosi Dlamini - Oxfam South Africa

