

Concept Note

Side event to Regional Forum on Sustainable Development - Gender and Energy: Overcoming Energy Poverty and Advancing Just Energy Transitions

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| Title: | Gender and Energy: Overcoming Energy Poverty and Advancing Just Energy Transitions |
| Date and time: | 28 March 2023, 11-12.30 |
| Organizers: | Stockholm Environment Institute, The Agence Française de Développement (AFD), UN Women ECA |
| Format: | Online |
| Link: | https://unwomen.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYkfuGopzMrEtNBK0KOztiGNj-DIMbAEqWL |
| Language: | English |

Introduction

Energy is a fundamental human need and a critical driver of sustainable development. International commitments to climate neutrality envisage the radical transformation of our energy systems, and one of the key priorities is to do it in a fair and inclusive way. However, access to energy remains a challenge for many communities, especially for women and marginalized groups. Energy poverty is not only a matter of access to electricity and heating but also encompasses the availability, reliability, and affordability of energy services. As the world moves towards a more sustainable energy future, it is essential to ensure that the energy transition is inclusive, equitable, and just for all.

Objective

The side event of the Regional Forum for Sustainable Development 2023 aims to bring together experts from ECE region to discuss the intersection of gender and energy. The event will focus on two critical areas: energy poverty and just energy transitions. The goal is to share experiences and insights, identify challenges, and explore opportunities to overcome energy poverty and advance just energy transitions in the region.

Expected Outcomes

1. To raise awareness of the intersections between of gender, poverty and energy, highlighting the impact of energy poverty on women, girls and marginalized communities.
2. To share best practices, experiences, and challenges in overcoming energy poverty, including the role of renewable energy and energy efficiency in improving access to energy services, best practices in inclusive stakeholder consultations and innovative financial instruments to support vulnerable communities.

3. To discuss the importance of just energy transitions and the role of gender in shaping energy policies and initiatives.
4. To identify opportunities for regional cooperation and collaboration in advancing just energy transitions.

Methodology

The side event will be structured as a panel discussion, with experts from ECE region sharing their perspectives and experiences on gender and energy. The discussion will be moderated by a representative from one of the co-organizers, such as the Stockholm Environment Institute, the French Development Agency (Agence française de développement, AFD). The panel discussion will be followed by a Q&A session, where attendees can engage with the experts and further explore the themes discussed.

Draft Agenda

| Time | Activity |
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| 11:00 - 11:15 | Opening remarks |
| | Alia El-Yassir, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia |
| | Cécile Couprie, Regional Director for Eurasia (Balkans, Turkey, Caucasus, Central Asia), AFD French Agency for Development |
| | Robert Watt, Engagement Director, Stockholm Environment Institute |
| | Boris Ilijevski, Project Manager, EU Delegation to Serbia |
| 11:15 - 12:15 | Panel discussion |
| | Jeppe Mikél Jensen, Energy Poverty Advisory Hub, EU |
| | Laura Del Duca, Research Associate, Stockholm Environment Institute |
| | Jasminka Young, Co-founder and Programme Director of RES Foundation, Serbia |
| | Valbona Mazreku, Executive Director, Milieukontakt, Albania |
| 12:15 - 12:25 | Q&A and discussion |
| 12:25 - 12:30 | Closing remarks by Moderator |

Moderator: Jo-Anne Bishop, UN Women