Side Event: "Regional coherence and south-south cooperation to promote sustainable energy investments, markets and industries in LLDCs",
Panel Discussion, 04 November 2014, 13:15 to 14:45 | VIC | Conference Room: M6

OBJECTIVES

The side event will discuss innovative models and strategies to strengthen regional sustainable energy cooperation in the Programme of Action for LLDCs for the Decade 2014-2024. The moderated panel discussion will focus particularly on the following aspects:

- sustainable energy opportunities for LLDCs;
- the added value of regional cooperation in the RE&EE sector;
- lessons learned and best practices from various regions;
- innovative regional programs to promote RE&EE;
- present the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres;

BACKGROUND

The discussion takes place in the context of the Lima Declaration which was adopted by the UNIDO Member States on 2 December 2013, and gives inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) a crucial role in the development agenda beyond 2015.

The remoteness of many LLDCs tends to lead to high energy and transport costs which impact negatively on the socio-economic and industrial development of these countries. By developing their local RE&EE potentials many LLDCs have the opportunity to address the challenges of energy access and affordability, energy security and climate change simultaneously.

Sustainable energy solutions can help key industries in LLDCs to become more productive and competitive. The up-scaling of decentralized energy systems (e.g. mini-grids) can make a difference for millions of low-income people in rural and remote areas.

A number of LLDCs have made considerable progress in the creation of enabling national environments for the dissemination of RE&EE solutions and technologies. Many countries have developed and adopted targets in line with the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) goals.

However, the execution of these policy commitments remains sometimes at initial stages and does not transform into major investments or a vibrant local market and industry. There is the impression that the local private sector and industry in some LLDCs is not taking sufficiently advantage of the growing market and job opportunities. Basic RE&EE equipment and technical expertise continue to be imported.

A broad range of barriers for the creation of sustainable energy markets and industries in LLDCs (policy, regulatory, financial, technical, lack of capacity, knowledge and awareness) remains to be addressed. There is a common understanding that regional cooperation can play a critical role in addressing these barriers more effectively.

At this background many regions are currently working towards common electricity and gas markets and interconnections. The model of south-south cooperation can be also an effective way to reach economies of scale in the sustainable energy sector. Well-aligned regional methodologies, tools and standards can complement and upscale national efforts.

However, in many parts of the world (incl. LLDCs) the regional institutional support frameworks for RE&EE are weakly developed. There is an urgent need for the strengthening these institutional capacities.

Moderator

- Pradeep Monga, Director for Energy and Climate Change, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Vienna

Panelists

- Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), Cape Verde
- Klaus Rudischhauser, Director, DG Development and ACP General Affairs, European Commission, Brussels
- Robert Zeiner, Director, International Programs & Projects, Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Vienna
- Gabriela Cretu, Electricity and Renewable Energy Expert, Energy Community Secretariat, Vienna

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Panelists:

Klaus Rudischhauser joined the European Commission in 1989 and took up duty in the Directorate-General Environment. Subsequently he worked on assistance to the Newly Independent States and then was Head of Unit at the Directorate-General Personnel and Administration and the Directorate-General Energy and Transport where he was in charge of the Trans-European Transport Networks. From March 2007 to May 2011, he was Director at the Directorate-General Development and Relations with ACP Countries. From June 2011 to July 2012, Mr. Rudischhauser was in charge of Directorate B Quality and Impact of Aid at DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid. Since 22 November 2011 he represents Commissioner Piebalgs in the UN initiative Energy for All. As of 1 August 2012 he is Deputy Director General at DG Development and Cooperation – EuropeAid and oversees directorates EU development policy, Sustainable Growth and Development, Human and Society Development and three units dealing with respectively Communication and transparency, Institutional relations, Quality and results.

Mahama Kappiah is the Executive Director of the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE). Under his leadership, ECREEE has attained international recognition as a unique regional renewable energy and energy efficiency promotion agency in sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to the establishment of ECREEE in 2010, Mahama Kappiah was Head of the ECOWAS Energy Division. Some of his achievements include the creation of the West African Power Pool (WAPP) and the ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulation Authority (ERERA). Before joining the ECOWAS Commission, he worked in the Planning and Development Department of the Volta River Authority (VRA) of Ghana, where he served in various capacities. He holds a Master of Science in Electromechanical Engineering from the Kharkov Polytechnic Institute, Karkov, Ukraine. He has over 20 years of experience working on issues related to energy, environment, climate change and sustainable development in West Africa and beyond.

Robert Zeiner has more than 30 years of experience in diverse organisations of development co-operation and he is, since the beginning of 2004, the Director of international programmes and projects for the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). M. Zeiner started his professional career in the Austrian Steel Industry (feasibility studies) and worked from 1983 to 1985 as the director of an SME in Austria. From 1986 to 1991 he was program-coordinator of the Austrian Service for Development Co-operation for Central America, where he was based in Managua, Nicaragua. From 1991 to 2003, Robert Zeiner was director of the Austrian Service for Development Co-operation and HORIZONT3000. He was, i.a. responsible for the successful planning, design and implementation of TRIALOG (EU-enlargement and development cooperation) and for the development and implementation of a quality management tool for development cooperation.

Gabriela Cretu, Electricity and Renewable Energy Expert, Energy Community Secretariat, Gabriela Cretu is a seasoned renewable energy expert and joined the Energy Community Secretariat in 2007. Since then, she is assisting the Contracting Parties of the Energy Community Treaty with the implementation of the electricity and renewable energy policies and regulations in accordance with the commitments of the Treaty establishing the Energy Community. She has more than 20 years experience in electricity market liberalization and policy reforms of the electricity sectors in the Europe. During 2001-2007, she joined the Romanian Electricity Transmission System Operator and she represented the company in the European TSO Association, in Network Access Tariffs Task Force. She is holding a Master of Science in Power Engineering from Bucharest Polytechnical University and a Professional Diploma in Management from Open University (UK).

Moderator:

Pradeep Monga is Director for Energy & Climate Change at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). He is an expert in the field of energy policy planning, technologies and financing mechanisms with over 30 years of working experience. His present responsibilities include giving developing countries strategic advice on energy policy issues, the supervision of networks of energy technology centres, and the coordination with UN Energy members on energy and climate issues. Before UNIDO, Dr. Monga has worked for UNDP and has been a consultant with the World Bank, World Resource Institute in Washington DC, TERI in New Delhi and the FAO in Rome. Before the UN, Dr. Monga held senior positions in the Government of India. In addition, Dr. Monga holds a certificate in Advanced Organizational Management from Harvard Business School. He is both a Fulbright and Humphrey scholar.