

## Concept note

**10<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (IFESD),  
7-8 October 2019, UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, Thailand  
From Targets to Action**

### Sustainable Energy and Gender Empowerment

**09:00-17:15, Tuesday 8 October 2019  
Venue: UN Conference Centre**



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#### Rationale and Background:

Progress in sustainable energy lies at the heart of socio-economic growth and sustainable development. Accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development is a key condition for reducing inequalities, poverty eradication, advances in health and education, sustainable economic growth, and the principle of “Leaving no one behind”, in addition to climate action. Mainstreaming sustainable energy also presents significant opportunities for achieving a greater gender balance, including through improved energy access for women, access to medical services and education, and job opportunities.

SDG5 on gender equality and SDG7 are two deeply intertwined components, in addition to gender-sensitive targets in other goals, providing for stronger cross-sectoral and integrated efforts. Moreover, women’s distinct roles also provide them with skills and knowledge, which make them valuable agents of environmental safeguard and a key resource for positive adaptation and mitigation of environmental damage.

In this context, gender disparity in economic and social sectors is a critical issue that needs to be addressed towards achieving social and economic equity. Equally important, energy affects women and men differently as men and women have different roles and responsibilities in households, markets and social spheres, which makes their access, use, and impact of energy services and technologies also different.

Improving gender equality and social inclusion is essential to fully realize the development impact of many energy programs. The path to achieving SDG 5 and SDG 7 therefore indeed interlinks gender equality and energy access.

Moreover, mitigating the effects of climate change on the poor should be addressed within the socio-economic and environmental sustainability concerns. Indeed, rural economic revival based on the use of appropriate renewable energy sources will lead to decoupling economic development from environmental footprint and thus support countries to meet their nationally set obligations under the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Furthermore, improving resource efficiency if coupled with appropriate environmental governance and greater policy coherence among the different sectors will help to achieve the goals of the ambitious and transformative 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

In this context, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is implementing the **“Regional Initiative for Promoting Small-Scale Renewable Energy Applications in rural areas of the Arab Region” (REGEND)**, which is funded by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), with the involvement of several partners such as the League of Arab States (LAS), line Arab ministries, local authorities, various regional and international organizations, UN organizations, local and regional NGOs, research institutions and academia.

By using appropriate small-scale renewable energy technologies for productive activities and entrepreneurial development, REGEND aims to improve the livelihood, economic benefits, social inclusion and gender equality of Arab rural communities, particularly marginalized groups, through a bottom-up and participatory approach by addressing energy poverty, water scarcity and vulnerability to climate change and other natural resources challenges in three targeted countries, namely: Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. Gender equality and entrepreneurship constitute an integral part of REGEND’s activities and expected outputs and are considered a cross-cutting priority along the various phases of its implementation.

Within the framework of the REGEND’s activities, ESCWA and Sida in partnership with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), UN Women, the International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA), the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and UN Environment are organizing a Workshop on **“Sustainable Energy and Gender Empowerment”** to be held on 8 October 2019 within the framework of the Tenth International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development (7-8 October 2019) in Bangkok, Thailand.

### Objectives:

The event on **“Sustainable Energy and Gender Empowerment”** intends to highlight the importance of enhancing gender equality and diversifying the involvement of women across the sustainable energy value chain based on a human right based approach.

The workshop will feature presentations and experience-sharing discussion panels that will cover gender equality, entrepreneurial development, and the role and opportunities that sustainable energy offer with focus on the rural context and related productive activities.

The workshop aims to address the following topics:

- Share experiences and foster learning between stakeholders and experts on the challenges and opportunities for gender equality in the energy sector;
- Discuss the potential of synergies between key sectors (energy, water, agriculture, tourism, services, industries, etc.) especially in the rural context;
- Present the opportunities of use of sustainable energy technologies and showcase for economic development and support for gender equality in the sustainable energy industry;
- Identify sustainable energy policy gaps in gender mainstreaming and women empowerment;
- Address the challenges and difficulties in accessing finance, information and markets, technology, access to education and training especially for women entrepreneurs;
- Discuss the potential benefits of realizing gender equality and pathways forward in empowering women in the energy sector and achieving SDG7;
- Formulate actionable recommendations for mainstreaming gender and human rights approach in sustainable energy policy planning, capacity building and awareness raising for gender equality.

The outcomes of the workshop will serve as the basis for suggesting a gender mainstreaming and human rights strategy and action plans to support policy makers, government and local institutions in operationalizing a gender equality and human rights approach to accelerate progress towards sustainable energy.

### Tentative Agenda:

<b>Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019</b>	
08:30 – 09:00	<p><b>Registration</b></p> <p><i>Sponsored participants are kindly asked to bring their passport, visa stamp and airline ticket stub to the meeting.</i></p>
<b>09:00 – 09:05</b>	<p><b>Welcoming and Introductory remarks</b></p> <p>Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division, UN-ESCWA</p>
<b>09:05 – 10:15</b>	<p><b>Session I: Panel discussion: Gender empowerment within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement</b></p>
<p>Chairperson:</p> <p>Members of the Panel discussion</p> <p>09:05 – 10:00</p>	<p>Ms. Linda Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Giraffe Bioenergy Ltd, ENERGIA representative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors Deputy Regional Director UN-Women, Thailand</li> <li>- Mr. Scott Foster, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE</li> <li>- Ms. Parimita Mohanty, Programme Management Officer, Renewable Energy Asia and the Pacific Office, UN Environment, Thailand</li> <li>- Ms. Lana Zaman, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Division, UNESCAP</li> <li>- Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, ESCWA</li> <li>- Ms. Monica Maduekwe, Programme Coordinator, ECOW-GEN (ECREEE)</li> </ul> <p><b>Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is the relationship between gender, energy and climate change in your respective region and context?</li> </ul>



<p>10:00 – 10:15</p> <p>10:15 – 10:30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Although energy is recognised as an input for development, what specific role or advantages does RE bring compared to other energy sources?</li> <li>- What are the potential benefits of realizing gender equality and achieving SDG7?</li> <li>- What does it mean gender empowerment in a context where traditional cultural roles and norms dictate a lack of societal value and rights for women?</li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp;A and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>10:30-12:00</b></p>	<p><b>Session II: Sustainable Energy and Gender Empowerment: Case Studies and Lessons learned from regional and international perspectives</b></p>
<p>Moderator:</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>10:30 – 11:45</p> <p>11:45 – 12:00</p> <p>12:00 – 13:30</p>	<p>Ms. Sawsan Gharaibeh, Chair, Transparency International Jordan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Hania Chahal, Lebanon, ESCWA Consultant</li> <li>- Ms Annette Wallgren, Programme management officer, gender and climate change, UN-Environment</li> <li>- Ms. Yunxiao He, Senior Social Specialist, Asia Program Advisor, Four Corners Management Consulting,</li> <li>- Ms. Margalita Arabidze, Deputy Head, Energy Policy Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia</li> </ul> <p><b>Guiding Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What factors account for gender-specific problems that women face in relation to their roles in the production and utilization of energy services?</li> <li>- What are the women needs and challenges they face in participating in the energy sector, specifically in rural context?</li> <li>- What potential for synergies between key sectors (energy, water, agriculture, tourism, services, industries, etc.) and gender empowerment especially in the rural context?</li> <li>- Where do you identify the most potential for introducing and implementing gender mainstreaming in the energy sector and what are the main challenges and barriers?</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A and Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Lunch Break/Group Photo</b></p> <p><b>Partners’ side-events (1 hour):</b> Asia Pacific Renewable Energy Status (ESCAP/REN21/ADB) Electric vehicles (ESCAP/Ministry of Energy, Thailand) REGEND Steering Committee meeting (close meeting for ESCWA national Partners)</p>



<b>13:30– 15:15</b>	<b>Session III: Panel discussion on the Means of implementation for accelerating progress on SDG7 and SDG5</b>
Moderator:	Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, ESCWA
Members of the Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Syham Bentouati, Executive Director NAFAS, Oman.LTD</li> <li>- Mr. Khaled Bedoui, Chief Executive Officer KB. Consulting, Tunisia</li> <li>- Ms. Govind Kelkar, Executive Director, GenDev Centre for Research and Innovation, Gurgaon, India</li> <li>- Ms. Harleen Kaur Sindhu, Renewable Energy Lead, Shell Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan</li> <li>- Ms. Nadine Saba, Board President and Project Director, Akkar Network for Development (AND), Lebanon</li> <li>- Mr. Zeyad Alsaaydeh, Director of Rural Electrification Department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Director Ministry of Energy and Mines, Jordan</li> </ul>
13:30 – 15:00	<p><b>Key guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What challenges and difficulties exist in accessing finance, information and markets, technology, education and training especially for women entrepreneurs?</li> <li>- What are the SDG &amp; Corporate-centered benchmarks to help accelerate reduction in gender imbalances and women empowerment in the Renewable energy sector?</li> <li>- How can the developed sustainable energy capacity be leveraged to boost productive activities that support gender empowerment?</li> <li>- Are there any statistics or data that track the implementation of gender mainstreaming and what are your suggestions or recommendations to develop such indicators?</li> </ul>
15:00 – 15:15	<b>Q&amp;A and Discussion</b>
15:15 – 15:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>15:30 – 17:15</b>	<b>Session IV: Panel Discussion on promoting integrated approaches to address Gender Empowerment and Sustainable Energy: Way Forward</b>
Moderator:	Ms. Jessica Obeid, Expert Renewable Energy, Lebanon
Members of the Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ms. Banashri SINHA, Gender, Environment and Climate Change Specialist, UN-Women, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Thailand</li> <li>- Ms. Monica Maduekwe, Programme Coordinator, ECOW-GEN, ECREEE</li> <li>- Ms. Lana Zaman, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, Energy Division, UNESCAP</li> <li>- Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, UN-ESCWA</li> <li>- Ms. Linda Davis, Chief Executive Officer, Giraffe Bioenergy Ltd, ENERGIA</li> <li>- Ms. Harleen Kaur Sindhu, Renewable Energy Lead, Shell Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan</li> </ul>
15:30– 16:30	<p><b>Key guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What your respective organisation is doing in terms of gender mainstreaming within the sustainable energy sector and what are your planned programs?</li> <li>- What gender mainstreaming and human rights action plans can be recommended to policy makers, government and local institutions for the energy sector?</li> <li>- What are the priority actions over the medium and long term to accelerate progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment in the energy sector?</li> <li>- How can an integrated approach to gender empowerment capture the full breadth of the value chain in sustainable energy?</li> </ul>



16:30– 17:00	<b>Summary of Key Messages and Recommendations for the Way Forward</b> Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy Section, Sustainable Development Policies Division (SDPD), UN-ESCWA
17:00 - 17:15	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

### Participants:

The Event will bring together various international, regional and national energy, practitioners, gender experts, NGOs, government ministries and entities, UN organizations, and research institutions and academia.

### Language of the Workshop:

The meeting will be conducted in the Arabic and English languages. Simultaneous interpretation from and into the Arabic and English languages will be provided.