

EUEI Bulletin

Selected news and information on European Energy Development Cooperation

No. 14 | September 2017

Dear EUEI Members, dear Readers,

Back after the summer break, we hope that you too had a quieter few months and a chance to recharge your batteries. With COP23 taking place in Bonn, the AU-EU Summit in Abidjan and a wealth of other activities planned, it promises to be a busy autumn.

We hope that this edition of the EUEI Bulletin will help guide you through the latest efforts in energy development cooperation, offering you an overview of the most important recent activities, upcoming efforts and useful resources. As ever, if you would like to profile your work in the Bulletin and share it with other members of the EUEI, please feel free to contact fiona.wollensack@euei-pdf.org with details.

With regards from Brussels,

Your team of the EUEI support project, EUEI PDF

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ▶ African Green Revolution Forum 2017; 4-8 September; Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire | [Details](#)
- ▶ Asia-Pacific Ministerial Summit on the Environment 2017; 5-8 September; Bangkok, Thailand | [Details](#)
- ▶ 4th International Conference on Research for Development; 5-8 September; Bern, Switzerland | [Details](#)
- ▶ Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) Argentina High-level Symposium; 6-8 September; Buenos Aires, Argentina | [Details](#)
- ▶ 46th Session of the IPCC; 6-10 September; Montreal, Canada | [Details](#)
- ▶ High-Level Conference of the Global Geothermal Alliance; 11-12 September; Florence, Italy | [Details](#)
- ▶ Mexirec 2017; 11-13 September; Mexico City, Mexico | [Details](#)
- ▶ Forum on Regional Cooperation: Developing Quality Infrastructure for Photovoltaic Energy Generation; 11-15 September; Santiago, Chile | [Details](#)
- ▶ AMCOMET-Africa Hydromet Forum 2017; 12-15 September; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | [Details](#)
- ▶ EU Council Informal meeting of energy ministers; 19-21 September; Brussel, Belgium | [Details](#)
- ▶ Third Investing in Africa Forum; 25-27 September; Dakar, Senegal | [Details](#)
- ▶ Fostering the deployment of Renewable Energy in Ethiopia; 3-4 October; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | [Details](#)
- ▶ European Utility Week 2017; 3-5 October; Amsterdam, Netherlands | [Details](#)
- ▶ Talking business: Microfinance for decentralised renewables in Africa; 9 October; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | [Details](#)

- ▶ 4th OECD Green Investment Financing Forum; 24-25 October; Paris, France | [Details](#)
- ▶ IEA Ministerial Meeting 2017; 7-8 November; Paris, France | [Details](#)
- ▶ UN Climate Change Conference 2017; 6-17 November; Bonn, Germany | [Details](#)

THEMATIC SECTIONS

[News from the European Union](#) : *A look ahead to November's AU-EU Summit*

[In the Spotlight](#) : *Reviews the outcomes of this year's HLPF, looks ahead to COP23, and presents tools for synergies and trade-offs across SDGs*

[Opportunities for the Private Sector](#) : *With renewables funding and calls in Latin America and Caribbean, news on the importance of investment environments for RE, and Danish pension funds active in Africa*

[Africa Focus](#) : *Featuring new funds, renewables potential in Tanzania, hydropower projects and investments by the World Bank*

[News from the Member States](#) : *Dives into recent Voluntary National Reviews*

[Media Suggestions](#) : *Teaser*

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

5th AU-EU Summit focuses on youth, with preparations underway on the road of Abidjan

With the 5th African Union-European Union summit taking place on the 29-30th of November in Abidjan, preparations for the meeting are well underway. The high-level event will bring together commissioners from the two blocks, as well as national leaders and leading decision-makers, and will focus on youth. This is a shared key priority for both Europe and Africa, and in the context of African demographic trends presents notable challenges for young people in terms of migration, security and employment. The vision and strategic interests of the European Commission for the summit and for a strengthened partnership with Africa were outlined in May, in its [Joint Communication](#).

A series of thematic side-events are taking place both in advance of the summit and on its margins. These include [4th Africa-Europe Youth Summit](#), which will see more than 120 youth leaders from both continents meet in Abidjan in October to draw up a declaration on important issues for youth, including education, the environment, business, democratic inclusion and culture. A High Level Platform: Sustainable Energy Investments in Africa is also being planned by the Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) as part of the AU-EU Summit and will take place on the 29th of November in Abidjan. This will also mark the 10th anniversary of the partnership.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Report back from the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York

Under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the fifth High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) took place from the 10th to 19th of July in New York. Under the theme of "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world", participants worked in the first week to review in-depth a number of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), in advance of the three-day ministerial meeting and high-level segment of ECOSOC which took place in the second week.

The Forum carried out four thematic reviews related to the HLPF's 2017 theme, and reviewed six of the SDGs (1-3, 5, 9 and 14). Thematic reviews also took place relating to SDG17 on partnerships (which is reviewed every year) notably also on investing in and financing for SDGs. On that the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN presented the report of the 2017 [ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development](#). Highlights from the report which were emphasised included resilient infrastructure and long-term orientated investments, and panellists called for further transformative partnerships in finance.

As part of the Ministerial Segment, 43 countries presented their voluntary national reviews (VRNs), outlining their progress on implementing the 2030 Agenda. At the HLPF, the UN Secretary General also presented the [SDG Progress Report](#) and the Secretary-General's report on [mainstreaming sustainable development into the UN system](#) was also published.

The HLPF closed with the adoption of the [not uncontroversial](#) Ministerial Declaration on this year's theme of "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world".

A detailed overview of the discussions and debates during this year's High-Level Political Forum can be found [here](#).

The next High-Level Political Forum has been scheduled for July 2018, under the theme of "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". This will also see SDG7 under review. Some 35 countries have, to-date, announced they plan to present their Voluntary National Reviews. More on this and the ECOSOC President's priorities for 2018 can be found [here](#).

"Bula!" to Bonn – preparations for COP23 underway

This year's UN Climate Change Conference (COP23) will take place from the 6th to the 17th of November in Bonn, [presided over by Fiji](#) and hosted by the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The presidency and hosts of COP23 are working together closely with the German government, as well as the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and the City of Bonn to prepare the conference. [Recent remarks](#) by the UNFCCC Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa underlined the importance of this partnership, as well as the value of cooperation in the preparation of the COP and implementation of the Paris Agreement.

This year's COP will be organised as "one conference, two zones", and will focus on implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Intergovernmental negotiations will take place in the "Bula Zone", located at the World Conference Center Bonn, UN Campus and an extended area behind the Deutsche Welle building in Bonn. The agenda is available [via the UNFCCC](#). The "Bonn Zone", located in the Rheinaue Park, will accommodate events showcasing climate action, including high-level events, side events and exhibits. Some media events, and those in the delegation pavilions, will also be held here. More than [830 organisations](#), representing a wide range of stakeholders and geographies, applied to host a side event at the conference, underscoring the continued interest in and the relevance of the annual conference. The final agenda for side events and other activities is expected to be published shortly via the COP23 [information hub](#).

A virtual tour of the Bonn location is available [here](#).

Tools for mapping SDG trade-offs and linkages published, and links of SDGs with NDCs

A number of international organisations and research institutes have recently published a suite of tools to help decision makers in the implementation of the SDGs.

The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) has developed [economic modelling software](#) which helps countries manage the trade-offs between different SDGs. Using

quantitative inputs, the software predicts the economic impacts of various policies and their potential contribution toward achieving specific SDG targets and indicators. A [support manual](#) is also available.

Additionally, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) has developed a [web tool](#) for mapping out the linkages between various SDG targets. The tool – and its [accompanying report](#) – shows which targets have a central role within the integrated SDGs package, underlining the mutually reinforcing nature of some SDG targets and potential synergies, as well as those requiring trade-offs. The aim is to enable the prioritisation of action, and has already been used by IGES to analyse SDG interlinkages in nine Asian countries.

Addressing both SDG and NDC implementation, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has released an [online tool](#) to help bridge the gap between development ministries and those working on climate change. The web app maps the complementarities between countries' national climate plans and the SDGs. A series of fact sheets and [country profiles](#) illustrate the application of the tool.

Finally, the World Bank recently released the [Global Solar Atlas](#), enabling countries to map potential sites for solar energy in detail.

Update on SDG Indicators?

In addition to [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017](#), launched at July's High-Level Political Forum in New York, the UN Statistics Division has also launched the [Global SDG Indicators Database](#). Overall, the reports find that the pace of progress is insufficient to fully meet the SDGs and their targets by 2030. Further, they identify challenges for national and international statistical systems posed by the need for accessible, reliable, timely and disaggregated data if progress on the SDGs is to be measured well and is to inform decision-making. The data and reports also show uneven advances towards the SDGs being made across regions, between urban and rural populations, and depending on gender, age and wealth.

Looking to SDG7 on energy, the reports find that while 85.3% of the global population now has access to electricity, up from 77.6 % in 2000, more than a billion people, mostly in rural areas, still live without electricity. Other findings include that some three billion still lack access to clean and safe cooking fuels and technologies; and while renewable power generation is rising rapidly, comparable progress has not occurred in the heating or transport sectors.

Further information on the reports' findings is available [via the UN](#).

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Database of sustainability experts and technologies launched

WIPO GREEN, an interactive marketplace which connects technology and service providers with those seeking innovative solutions, has recently launched a call for its database of experts. The directory of service providers gives users access to an international network of more than 5,000 experts in over 50 countries, and offers a platform for showcasing their services in green technology development and dissemination.

WIPO GREEN was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in 2013.

Further details can be found [here](#) and registration is possible via this [link](#).

Danish pension funds invest in African energy and transportation infrastructure to boost returns

A.P. Moeller Holding, together with the Danish pension funds PensionDanmark, PKA and Lægernes Pension, have launched Africa Infrastructure Fund I. The fund will focus on infrastructure investment in transportation and energy. Between them the organisations have committed some US\$550 million, with an expected total capital commitment of US\$10 billion over the fund's 10-year lifetime. With the investments they aim to both support the implementation of the SDGs in Africa, and to boost returns to investors. These commitments build on PensionDanmark's existing investments in Africa in sustainable farming and renewable energy.

More information can be found [here](#).

OECD report underlines importance of enabling environment for renewables – as well as climate policy

A new working paper by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) highlights that the enabling environment for investments is central for spurring investment and innovation in renewables – and cannot be substituted by strong climate mitigation policies alone. Looking at data from OECD and G20 countries the research bore out the hypothesis that beyond setting climate mitigation policies, policy makers need to strengthen the general investment environment and align it with climate mitigation policies in order to mobilise investment and innovation in renewable power.

The full report is available via the [OECD library](#).

New renewables financing in Latin America

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has announced two financing initiatives through its private sector arm, the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC). In Uruguay, IIC has closed a [bond issue to finance the operation of the Campo Palomas wind farm](#), expanding on previous loan commitments which were made in partnership with Norway's DNB Bank ASA.

In Mexico, IIC has signed a [US\\$75 million loan package](#) to finance the design, construction and operation of a twin solar power plant, the Solem Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant. With a combined capacity of 350MWp, it will be the largest renewable energy project in Latin America, and the first to be financed by a long-term auction system.

Additionally, IDB is also providing [technical support to the government of Colombia](#) with a bond issue intended for projects which mitigate climate change impacts and improve environmental performance.

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AFRICA FOCUS

Two new funding platforms for Africa established

Adequate climate finance resources for developing countries are essential for combating climate change. Acknowledging this, two new funding platforms focusing on Africa have been set up in order to catalyse investments for climate finance. The Nordic Development Fund (NDF) announced a €4 million grant support to the establishment of the [Urban & Municipal Development Fund for Africa](#) (UMDF) of the African Development Bank (AfDB). The UMDF will support African cities and municipalities to improve urban growth management and climate-resilient development.

A second platform to catalyse investments, the [Climate Finance Platform for West Africa](#), will be launched during COP23 in November in Bonn, Germany. The fund was agreed upon during an

[ECOWAS roundtable discussion](#) in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire which took place in June. The aim of this sub-regional platform is to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives. The Declaration of Abidjan can be found [here](#).

World Bank provides funding to solar energy investments in Egypt and Kenya

The World Bank has recently approved a series of investments for off-grid solar energy in Kenya. The US\$150 million International Development Association (IDA) credit will fund the [Off-Grid Solar Access Project for Underserved Counties](#) in Kenya and provide energy access to an additional 1.3 million people. The project aims to contribute to [the goal of universal electricity access in Kenya by 2020](#) and includes a capacity-building component as well as a consumer education campaign.

Additionally, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) of the World Bank Group approved investments of [US\\$660 million to the world's largest solar capacity project](#), the [Benban solar complex](#) in Egypt. The investment will finance 11 additional large-scale solar PV projects with a solar power capacity of 500 MW. The project is an important step towards [Egypt's goal of 2.3 GW of installed large-scale solar capacity](#) and its target of sourcing 20 % of national energy from renewables by 2020.

Boost for renewables in Tanzania with IRENA Readiness Assessment and CIF funding

IRENA's [Renewable Readiness Assessment for Tanzania](#) has been published, and highlights the impressive potential of Tanzania for hydropower, bioenergy, geothermal as well as solar and wind energy development. The report shows that renewable energy could be a cost-effective solution for providing electricity to the more than 80 % of the population who still do not have a connection to the power grid. The report also shows that, if the right measures are taken, Tanzania has the potential to cover 78 % of its electricity needs through renewable energy sources by 2030.

Building on this potential, the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) have committed US\$21.7 million to Tanzania to help advance its [Geothermal Energy Development Project](#). The project intends to improve Tanzania's power supply and energy security, while the funding helps to mitigate the high-risk of geothermal prospecting.

Construction of Cameroon's 30 MW hydroelectric Dam underway

The construction of the 30 MW Lom Pangar hydroelectric plant has officially started with the [laying of the foundation stone](#) by Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) in July 2017. The hydroelectric plant will contribute to the electrification of 150 villages, providing an additional 10 000 households with access to electricity in the country's eastern region. The [project](#) is co-financed by the French Agency for Development, the AfDB, the World Bank, the Development Bank of the Central African States and the European Investment Bank.

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NEWS FROM THE MEMBER STATES

Presentation of Voluntary National Reviews

The 2030 Agenda's universality means that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals holds for all countries, not just for their (development) cooperation. In light of this, ten European Member States took the opportunity of the 2017 High-Level Political Forum to report on their progress towards the SDGs.

Presenting their VNR, the **Netherlands** highlighted the need for greater action to address greenhouse gas emissions, and renewable energy, and noted strong achievements on welfare, trust in institutions

and education, amongst other things. **Sweden** reported back on its progress across 49 SDG targets, including on infrastructure, and the private sector as a source of solutions. One of **Luxembourg's** national priorities is the decoupling of the economy from carbon emissions, while **Denmark** reported on its need for further action on sustainable consumption and production. Reflecting on recent challenges faced by **Cyprus**, the country also sees the private sector as an important actor for SDG implementation and a possible role for corporate social responsibility as a means for engagement on this. In **Slovenia** the SDGs have been embedded in the country's new, broader development framework, helping avoid duplicate structures.

In its VNR **Belgium** shared its lessons learned from implementing the SDGs, including the need to incorporate SDG targets into both its internal and external policy frameworks. **Italy** highlighted a forthcoming action plan with quantified objectives for 2030, and emphasised that Italy's development cooperation is addressing a number of needs emerging from the 2030 Agenda, including supporting better data, resource mobilisation and private sector involvement. Also acknowledging the interface between internal and external policies, the **Czech Republic** highlighted as a challenge it faces the need to increase its ODA. One of **Portugal's** actions to-date included in its VNR is its support to the UN development system to help it follow up on and improve the effectiveness of the SDG Agenda.

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MEDIA SUGGESTIONS

- ▶ Report: Addressing Climate Vulnerability for Power System Resilience and Energy Security: A Focus on Hydropower Resources; USAID. [Here](#)
- ▶ Report: Synergies between renewable energy and energy efficiency; Irena. [Here](#)
- ▶ Report: Results-Based Climate Finance in Practice: Delivering Climate Finance for Low-Carbon Development; World Bank and Frankfurt School of Finance and Management. [Here](#)

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