

## **COP22 Side Event: Unlocking Opportunities for Climate Responsive Development of Energy in African Cities**

**Organizers:** EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF)  
**Date & Time:** 11 November, 10:30-12:00  
**Venue:** GIZ Stand N°308, Marrakech, Innovation, Green Zone

### **Background:**

Cities globally consume up to 80% of total global energy production and release about 75% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In the case of Africa, urban population is projected to triple from 400 million in 2010 to 1.26 billion in 2050. Africa is the last continent to urbanise, however the speed and scale of urbanization differs from experiences in other continents. In view of extraordinary population growth and the subsequent increase in energy demand, local governments in Africa have great interest and incentives to initiate climate action in their own constituency; but are often constrained by a lack of institutional capacities and policy options to exploit the full range of local action.

In the run up to COP22 there is a pressing need for specifically addressing the needs of African cities to identify which policy-options and approaches will help to enable progress towards their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments. The New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III in October 2016, shows how cities are closest to implementation and have an unprecedented opportunity to transform, decarbonize and enhance the resilience of their energy supply and use through renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The event will use the occasion of COP22 to gather stakeholders to discuss opportunities to drive the sustainable urban energy transition in African cities. Due to sinking costs of low-carbon technologies, African cities have the potential to significantly improve their share of renewable energy and enhance energy efficiency while meeting increasing energy demand and alleviating poverty. The event will showcase the transformative ways for African cities to create their sustainable urban energy future. It will present the outcomes of the EUEI PDF study on future energy scenarios for African cities, highlight cutting-edge practice examples and discuss policy choices for cities to capitalize on the opportunities presented by renewable energy and energy efficiency.

### **Objectives:**

The main objective of the session is to discuss the role of city administrations for the transition into a sustainable and climate-friendly energy supply in urban settlements.

The expected outcomes are to:

- ▶ Highlight opportunities emerging from the energy scenarios for decision-makers in the public sector, private sector, civil society and academia;
- ▶ Collect best practices for energy action in African cities;
- ▶ Acknowledge the need for vertical integration of energy governance between national, region and municipal governmental bodies to achieve effective energy action in cities.

## Side-event content:

Key questions to be discussed during the session are as follows:

▶ **Which will be the key energy challenges of an African city in 2030?**

In order to develop successful policies, and design targeted interventions, it is necessary to set a long term vision and plan. The analysis of future trends and its implications for urban settlements in Africa can contribute to the policy debate and support city leaders take the appropriate decisions for achieving a sustainable energy supply in their constituencies.

▶ **What is the relevance of cities for attaining the international energy and climate objectives?**

*“By 2050, the world’s urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the twenty-first century’s most transformative trends.”<sup>1</sup>* Economic activity including its impacts in terms of the environment is increasingly concentrated in cities. There is an opportunity in many African cities, as they urbanise over the next three decades, to meet existing and future needs while avoiding lock in to unsustainable patterns of growth. 70-80% of building stock and infrastructure required to support Africa’s urban population is yet to be built representing a leap frog opportunity.

▶ **What are appropriate policy measures to accelerate resilient development in cities?**

The path to transforming cities into resilient settlements requires solid institutional frameworks and policies to enable action. Authority to implement energy activities is dispersed over different levels of government (national, regional and municipal) each of them acting in their own jurisdiction. Competences to implement energy projects are also different from country to country. Best practices of multi-level governance for energy in different countries shall provide examples of how vertical integration can support project implementation in a coordinated fashion.

▶ **Which funding streams are available for energy projects of local and regional governments?**

The majority of cities in Africa has a limited tax base and therefore depends on national budgets for financing. Access to international financing for municipalities is also extremely limited. Innovative financing mechanisms for municipalities are needed to allow for investments in RE and EE.

▶ **How can development partners effectively support municipalities and stakeholders?**

The international donor community has made commitment to support developing countries in meeting their NDCs in relation to global emissions reductions. In Africa, whether cities are able to manage their energy and climate risks will determine the success of national goals in the context of increasing urbanisation. The donor community can support city and municipal governments and other stakeholders in addressing their challenges as an enabler.

---

<sup>1</sup> New Urban Agenda UN HABITAT

## Unlocking Opportunities for Climate Responsive Development of Energy in African Cities

### Programme:

▶ **Session Chair:**

Mr. Daniel Werner, Programme Manager, EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF)

▶ **Moderator:**

Mr. Dr. Jens Drillisch, KfW Development Bank

5 mins	<b>Introductory remarks by Chair</b> Mr. Daniel Werner, EUEI PDF Programme Manager	
10 mins	<b>The role of African cities in the transition into a sustainable energy supply</b> Mr. Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, General Secretary, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)	
10 mins	<b>Energy Scenarios for Climate Responsive Development in African Cities</b> Ms. Silvia Escudero, Project Manager, EUEI PDF	
45 mins	<p><b>Panel discussion: Best practices of sustainable energy projects in municipalities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Mr. Mohammed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen</li> <li>▶ Dr. Vera Rodenhoff, Head of Division: International Affairs for Environment and Energy at German Ministry of Environment (BMUB)</li> <li>▶ Ms. Caroline Huwiler, Director and co-founder of the Institute for Development, Environment and Energy (IDE-E)</li> <li>▶ Mr. John Dulac, Energy Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)</li> <li>▶ Dr. Meggan Spires, Head of Climate Change, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI Africa)</li> <li>▶ Dr. Vincent Kitio, Chief of Urban Energy Unit, UN-HABITAT</li> </ul>	<p><b>Guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ What is the relevance of cities for attaining the international energy and climate objectives?</li> <li>▶ What are appropriate policy measures to accelerate resilient development in cities?</li> <li>▶ Which funding streams are available for energy projects of local and regional governments?</li> <li>▶ How can development partners effectively support municipalities and stakeholders?</li> <li>▶ What are best practices of energy action in municipalities? What were the success factors?</li> </ul>
10 min.	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	
10 mins	<b>Session summary and way forward</b>	