

## Side Event:

# Future Energy Scenarios for sub-Saharan African Cities Unlocking Opportunities for Climate Responsive Development

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## Timing and Venue

Date: 10 May 2017

Time: 11.30-13.00

Room: C1 at the Vienna International Centre (VIC)

## Background

The EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF) developed a study on [Future Energy Scenarios for sub-Saharan African Cities](#) which analyses the main megatrends that will shape the future of African cities and presents scenarios and policy choices to embark into a more sustainable path of growth.

The main objective of the session was to discuss three main challenges which city administrations in sub-Saharan Africa face in the transition to a sustainable energy supply for urban settlements: informality, capacity and access to finance. The session presented the outcomes of the energy scenarios for sub-Saharan African cities and coordinated an interactive discussion around the three identified key areas for action.

## Key Questions

### Enabling energy action in urban and peri-urban informal settlements

- What are the three main challenges of providing energy access to informal settlements in urban and peri-urban areas of sub-Saharan Africa?
- What are two innovative solutions for addressing energy access challenges in informal settlements which currently host around 70% of the urban population?
- Should the provision of access in informal settlements be centralised or decentralised?

### Supporting capacity building needs of energy in municipalities

- What are the main needs that municipalities in sub-Saharan Africa face in terms of capacity building?
- Which approaches for integrated planning that consider horizontal co-ordination and integration of sectors (energy, water, climate, housing and transport) could be applied?



- How can development partners support vertical integration of energy governance between national and municipal governmental bodies to achieve effective energy action in cities?

#### Unlocking finance for energy projects in primary and secondary cities

- Which financing lines are available for municipalities to implement RE and EE projects?
- How can bilateral and international development banks provide financing to primary and secondary cities in sub-Saharan African cities given the local currency risks and the common lack of city rating?
- What needs to change in municipal and national governance structures so that cities can access existing international climate finance?

#### Key Messages

- The **exponential and rapid population growth** expected in Africa, and in African cities in particular, is front and centre of the discussion about the continent's future and its energy needs. It is seen as posing a major challenge – but also as a megatrend that offers opportunities to put cities onto a pathway towards clean, green, sustainable and inclusive growth. With **70 to 80 % of infrastructure in African cities yet to be built** in order to serve the needs of its population, it is all the more important to avoid lock-in to unsustainable development patterns – given our common goal to create liveable cities for citizens and to protect the planet.
- Different energy technologies enjoy different levels of acceptance in the debate about urban electrification in Africa, and there is a marked **difference in the perception of on-grid and off-grid solutions**. For example, off-grid renewable energy is seen by residents of informal settlements in South Africa as a less reliable solution than a grid connection. These political and cultural hurdles need to be overcome if readily available, cost-effective and proven clean energy technologies and electrification systems are to be deployed widely. **Civil society has a role** to play here, both in ascertaining communities' needs, and in acting as an intermediary towards the wider population. To respond to this needs, enabling policies need to remain flexible to local needs and be "technology agnostic".
- How cities can be supported in their tremendous task to become more sustainable, whilst at the same time becoming more liveable and more productive, remains a key challenge. That said, it is important prerequisite for success that **cities first be allowed and then enabled to take on the very active role they can in shaping Africa's energy future**. Only once **cities obtain the mandate to act in energy** – mandates which currently reside mostly at national level – they can build capacities for this. In the spirit of subsidiarity, civil society organisation also have a role in enabling **vertical dialogue between municipalities and national governments**.
- Both the private sector and the multilateral development banks can support cities directly and indirectly as they contribute to Africa's urban electrification efforts. **Public private partnerships can enable viable business models** for the existing conditions on the ground, whilst also scaling up innovative solutions. Multilateral development banks should work to recognise the potential of cities and apply different, **tailored standards for assessing the creditworthiness and rating of cities**.

## Moderator



*Ms Belinda Mills*, Climate Officer, ICLEI Africa

Within ICLEI, Belinda focuses on low carbon cities. In particular she works with Local Governments around Africa on sustainable energy access, policies, smart transport and Carbon reporting.

## Key Note Speaker



*Dr Tania Rödiger-Vorwerk*, Deputy Director General, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Tania Rödiger-Vorwerk has served in multiple positions for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Currently she is Dep. Director General at Directorate 31 – Environment and Infrastructure. She has led bilateral development policy and cooperation with South Asia, crisis prevention and peace building, human resource development and has served as Director of Strategy and Planning. The experienced lawyer supported former Federal President of Germany, Prof. Dr. Horst Köhler, in his function as member of the United Nations High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda for UN SG Ban Ki-moon as “Sherpa” - heading the cross institutional shaped Sherpa-Staff.

Prior to her work at the ministry, she was Deputy Head of the Department of International Affairs and Protocol of the City of Bonn and was strongly involved in the change management and the United Nations settlement after reunification.

## Panellists



*Ms Silvia Escudero*, Project Manager, EUEI PDF

Silvia Escudero has been working as a Project Manager at the EU Energy Initiative Partnership Dialogue Facility (EUEI PDF) since 2014. Her work focuses on the assessment and development of energy policies, strategies and regulation, as well as support for capacity building and strengthening of partner governments and institutions (at municipal and national level). She is also the focal point for research topics in the areas of energy and cities as well as energy and climate change.



*Mr David Hees*, Solar Utility Manager, Sustainability Institute

David manages the iShack project - the flagship social enterprise of the Sustainability Institute Innovation Lab (SILL) which provides pay-for-use solar electricity to un-electrified urban slums in South Africa. He has been a project manager and consultant for the last 10 years working in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency. His skills include project planning, procurement, implementation and development of systems for quality management and financial strategy and has been a strong advocate for solar power, sustainable development and energy conservation in developing countries throughout his career.



*Mr Edison K. Masereka*, Business Development and Research Manager, Kampala Capital City Authority

With over 15 years of experience of public service, Edison has coordinated numerous teams and assignments relating to public policy, planning and corporate strategy. He is results oriented with wide exposure to global best practices in the field of economics, policy analysis, and corporate strategy and urban development. As Manager Business Development & Research at KCCA, Edison has been part of the team that spear headed reforms in City Administration in Kampala which has attracted attention locally and internationally. He was also the project team leader for the Kampala Climate Change Action Plan. Edison holds a Master's Degree in Economic Policy Management and a Bachelor of Commerce Degree from Makerere University. Areas of interest include; development economics, public policy, strategic planning, sustainable urban development, business and organisational development.



*Mr Felix Akrofi-Atitianti*, Project Officer, Low Carbon Cities ICLEI

Felix focuses on low emission development and enhanced air quality in cities. With a background in Geography, Environmental Risk Management and Sustainable Development, he supports global coordination activities of the Low Carbon City Agenda. He also engages in projects of the Urban Health Initiative of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to joining ICLEI, he conducted research on climate change adaptation and mitigation with organizations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN in Rome and the UN University in Accra.

## Organizers



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