



AREI panels COP 27

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COP27
SHARM EL-SHEIKH
EGYPT 2022

EVENT VIRTUAL OF AREI AT COP27

Theme: How renewables in Africa support climate change and save the planet

Co-organized with ***Pan African Climate Justice Alliance***

Context :

Energy consumption is changing rapidly and represents just over two-thirds of total annual GHG emissions. A closer examination shows that the production electricity is responsible for most of these emissions, followed by manufacturing and transportation.

It is therefore essential to accelerate the transition to renewable sources, both in production electricity than in heating, or even in transport, in order to control the rise in global temperatures.

Renewables offer an immediate way to decarbonize the energy mix global. Doubling the share of renewable energy by 2030 could achieve about half of the required emission reductions. In addition, the deployment of energies renewables is a driver of economic growth and sustainable development.

Promoting renewable energy means providing a safe and secure energy supply own while supporting GDP growth, improving trade balances, creating local value and decent sustainable jobs.

Effective action against climate change requires an increase in investments in renewable energy. According to IRENA's analysis, investment annual in renewable energy could reach 900 billion dollars by 2030.

The commitment of all is urgent to participate actively in the fight against global warming climate change and develop the world equitably, which is why the Africa Initiative on Renewable Energies (AREI) in cooperation with the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) are organizing an event during COP 27 on the theme "How Renewables in Africa are supporting climate change and saving the planet".

Date & Place

The event was held virtually on the sidelines of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.
November 11, 2022 at 14:00 (Egypt time) – 12:00 (GMT)



Dr Augustine Njamshi

Coordinator: African Coalition for
Access and Sustainable Energy



Mr Eugene N. Nforngwa

Senior Expert, Just Transition and Energy
Access at the Pan African Climate Justice
Alliance

Mr Eugene N. Nforngwa as moderator began by greeting the participants and introducing himself. Then, he presented the context of this webinar. He recalled that the objective is the preservation of nature in the face of the prevailing climate crisis. We must therefore act by reducing the use of fossil fuels in Africa where access to energy is a big problem. It is in this sense that renewable energies appear to be an adequate solution to the energy and climate crisis. So today's discussion comes to answer the question of how renewable energy can help fight climate change and save the planet?

Dr Njamshi Augustine

He was honored to open this panel.

He began his speech by greeting and thanking all the distinguished partners. But before anything else, he particularly wanted to pay tribute to AREI for the desire to want to work with Civil Society because often it is not easy.

During his speech, he pointed out that the consequences of the war in Ukraine on energy are at the heart of the discussions at COP 27. We are seeing a return of Europeans to the use of fossil fuels for heating as they approach of winter. Also, African leaders have more strength in their quest to exploit fossil fuels (oil and gas). And that puts everyone in trouble. However, the progress of electrification of the world leaves Africa behind. He also recalled the impact of this lack of energy access on health, education and household productivity in rural areas alongside the consequences of climate change on agriculture.

In view of the above, renewable energies are the appropriate solution in the sense that:

- 1- They facilitate the decentralization and deployment of energy to the most remote areas as well as the reduction of the impact of climate change
- 2- With increasingly robust technologies, access to renewable energies is becoming affordable
- 3- Maintaining low greenhouse gas emissions

To achieve this, it would be necessary to rethink energy governance in Africa.



Mr. Johan van den Berg
AEEP

As part of the prospects for renewable energies in Africa, he focused on the EU-AU partnership. He indicated that this partnership intervenes at the strategic and operational level of the projects.

Also, in terms of prospects, their objective, within the framework of the prevention of global warming, is to determine the quantity of fossil energy that Africa can produce in the short term to accelerate access to Renewables for the most vulnerable communities. Underprivileged and over the long term, ensure that it corresponds to the same international dynamic.

Still in this sense, he thinks that for a better energy transition in Africa, there should be a synergistic collaboration between the international institutions and all the actors involved, including the World Bank in the framework of Renewables in order to support in this journey that crosses Africa.

He urges the acceleration of funding because the continental master plan ensures the achievement of its objectives.

In his talk he covered 3 main areas as follows:

- Introduction to the AEEP and the areas of work covered by the AEEP.
- Continental outlook for renewable energies in Africa.
- SDG7 in Africa.

Mr. Johan stressed the urgent need to accelerate access to energy in Africa and this should be done in a low carbon way.

He also added the need to find a balance between the short term and the long term in terms of meeting energy demand in Africa.



Mr. Simbini Tichakunda
AUDA-NEPAD

He first presented the statistics on the evolution of the energy situation in Africa as well as the actions carried out by NEPAD in this regard. He affirmed that the energy transition has started in Africa since the 90s. insufficient in relation to the objectives pursued. Also, the energy situation in Africa is unbalanced depending on the region. Other regions are in surplus, while others are in deficit.

And concerning the prospects, Africa has an enormous and still unexploited potential, it would therefore be necessary to increase the investments in the production of electricity based on renewable energies with the aim of self-sufficiency but also for export because Africa is endowed with enough resources to be able to do this.

- Need to intensify production capacity through technology on the continent.
- Presented the outlook for the energy deficit in 2040
- Need to work on increasing the contribution of renewable energies to the continental energy mix.
- Identification of a synergy between economic poverty and energy poverty.



Mr. Rashid Ali Abdallah
Directeur Exécutif,
AFREC

He first wanted to take stock of the energy situation in Africa

- About 600 million Africans without access to electricity, i.e. 43% of the African population
 - 900 million Africans without access to clean heating energy using coal and firewood with a 60% dependence on bioenergy
 - The African population is equal to 17% of the world population with 9% of world use of fossil fuels
 - In transport, 40% of world petroleum products and 3% in industry
- From the above, Africa's fossil fuel consumption is very low.

However,

- 9% of African energy production comes from petroleum products, hence well above the world average.
- 1/3 of African energy production comes from coal which is very polluting

In short, the results show that Africa is the continent that emits the least carbon with less than 3%, knowing that the United States and Europe are responsible with 75%.

In view of the continent's demographic challenges, which believe it will reach 2.5 billion in 2050 and 4 billion in 2100, i.e. 40% of the world's population, Africa tends to be the biggest polluter if it plans to meet energy demand with fossil energy hence the need for renewable energies.

Africa has 70% of the world's solar resources but with 1% of installed capacity and it is so in general therefore Africa has sufficient renewable energy resources even for the future.

It's time to give answers to the problem of the day

- Essential innovative financing
- Reducing the cost of financing for availability and affordability of renewable energies
- A large investment in technologies for greater accessibility and affordability
- The establishment of an adequate logistics system to link production centers to cross-border demand centers
- Inter-African technology transfer
- Local production of innovative technologies to produce renewable energies

The renewables should be able to boost the industrialization of Africa. But above all, political will is needed, otherwise nothing can be done.



Dr El Kharraz
RCREEE

In his intervention, Dr. El Kharraz highlighted the potential of renewable energy in Africa referring to the fact that these resources are still untapped, in order to utilize renewable energy resources in Africa, Dr. El Kharraz highlighted the following important issues to deal with, among other things,

- (1) Have adequate regulation and policy
- (2) Cooperation between all actors and stakeholders.

He highlighted the importance of energy transition in Africa in addition to the challenges of energy access. He also spoke about the potential of green hydrogen in Africa.

Dr El Kharraz ended his intervention by insisting on the need for the energy transition to be inclusive.

After talking about the strong potential of renewable energies such as biomass, hydrogen because solar energy is obvious, he invited the partners to work more on the various risks that renewable energies present. He remains convinced that the more the risks are controlled, the easier it will be to obtain financing and the easier the energy transition will be to achieve.

Conclusions



Doctor BARAKAT Ahmed
Representing the Acting Director IDU / AREI
Member of the CT-West Africa Region

Dr. Barakat delivered the closing speech on behalf of the Acting Director of AREI/IDU Dr. Chantal COLLE, thanking civil society for co-organizing this important event on the sidelines of COP27. He thanked all the speakers for their availability and for sharing their expertise and knowledge.

He also summarized recommendations made during the discussion as follows:

- the crucial role of Politics
- Industrialization
- Innovative financing
- Regulations, policies and governance
- Cooperation
- Bankable projects
- Capacity building and knowledge



Dr Mohamed OMRAN

Member of CT-North Africa Region
AREI

He felt that a special session would be needed to talk about financing because this problem had been raised on several occasions. We should rethink the question of financing because the interest rate is higher in Africa than elsewhere. And if we think we're getting funding from countries, we're going to fail. But rather, the increased involvement of the private sector is needed and this can only be done through incentive measures that countries can offer. This, so that private companies can take an interest in the issue and provide innovative solutions in renewable energies.