



## AREI panels COP 27

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**COP27**  
SHARM EL-SHEIKH  
EGYPT 2022

# EVENT VIRTUAL OF AREI AT THE COP27

**Theme: The Role of Sustainable Energy for Youth, Women and Peace  
in Africa**

Co-organized with **RCREEE**

## Context :

For more than a decade, the United Nations has presented energy as "the golden thread that connects growth, social equity and environmental sustainability" to achieve the agenda. Energy, and in particular green energy, is key to unlocking Africa's future as envisioned in Africa's Agenda 2063 the African Union.

Whether transforming the economy, ensuring food security, digitizing education, to revolutionize healthcare systems, to build manufacturing capacity and of industrialization, to fight against global warming or to maintain peace by creating quality jobs and providing services. But it is impossible to achieve these ambitions without abundant and affordable access for all to a source of renewable energy modern and reliable. The stakes are high for Africa, hence this urgent call to action to build the continent's energy systems ever greener. The African continent continues to face the challenge of achieving peace and development. Many peace initiatives have been launched on the continent.

Sustainable development has three dimensions: social, economic and environmental, and the energy touches all three. Renewable energy plays an important and too lightly identified and recognized. In the dynamics of climate, security, peace and conflict in many many African countries where 600 million people, or 43% of the total population, do not have access to electricity, most in sub-Saharan African countries Renewable energy can be a key human security tool that can bring progress while addressing the broader challenge of global warming in fragile communities.

It is essential to promote the participation of women in the energy sector renewables, because this sector plays a more important role in providing access to energy for all. In this regard, the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) in cooperation with the European Union organizes an event on "the impact of green energy on the consolidation of peace in Africa".

## Date & Place

The event was held virtually on the sidelines of COP27 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.  
November 14, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. (Egyptian time) – 12:00 p.m. (GMT)



25 years of experience in  
the European Union

**Dr Roberto Ridolfi**

Expert in Financing Renewable  
Energy Projects,

**IDU/AREI**



**Mr Mohamed Jalloh**

Social and Environmental  
Justice Advocates and  
Community Development  
Specialist

As moderator, **Dr Ridolfi** opened this session by recalling that it is co-organized between the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE). He then recalled the framework of the meeting which is to discuss the essential role of renewable energies and energy efficiency for young people, women and peace in Africa, then he presented the panelists.

He indicated that renewable energies and energy efficiency have changed the daily lives of young people and women alike and have enabled:

- The creation of new socio-economic micro-fabrics.
- Empowerment of women
- Contribution to peace in Africa
- Access to clean and more efficient cooking.
- Creation of new value chain
- Contribution to the conservation and optimization of fish products
- Support for agriculture
- Improved health through the abandonment of polluting energy sources

He added, moreover, that conflicts are the result of poverty and that AREI, by adopting the global approach of granting access to clean energy for the populations, by creating added value, helps eradicate and maintain peace and security on the continent.

**Mr. Jalloh** stressed that women with young people must be at the forefront in helping and supporting the energy transition and therefore in mitigating the harmful effects of global warming because the future, of which we must preserve the environment belongs to them. He said that beyond electrification, deployments of renewable energies contribute to peace and job creation because they are an opportunity for the industrialization of Africa. He spoke about the immense and diverse resources of the African continent in terms of renewable energies and the energy poverty of the countries of the continent. He emphasized the duty of young people to take the initiative with an innovative spirit.



Eng. Maha Mostafa  
Chairwoman of RCREEE

***Speech by the Co-organizer, Eng. Maha Mostafa, President, RCREEE.***

Africa has suffered greatly from energy poverty and needs to work hard to ensure the development and security of countries

- Renewable energies are the main player in the development of all areas with the creation of direct or indirect jobs.
- Renewable energies are an essential solution for displaced people, refugees in camps or remote areas.
- Africa, despite its abundant renewable energy resources, has more than 600 million inhabitants without access to electricity.
- Innovative solutions of renewable energy technologies are the solution for the electrification of rural areas and access to clean cooking.
- Renewable energies appease inter-community conflicts and maintain peace.
- In Africa, women occupy only 22% of jobs in energy even though they represent 48% of the global workforce.

RCREEE works on programs for the capacity building of women

Clean energy is a solution for a clean kitchen and better health.  
There are good examples in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco.

RCREEE has prepared training courses to prepare female RE and EE managers.

Furthermore, she added that it is essential to engage young people in the energy and ecological transitions that offer world-class opportunities that are very attractive to young people. Africa has suffered a lot from energy poverty and must work hard to ensure security in African countries, she concluded that renewable energy is the main player in the development of all fields, innovative technological solutions in terms of renewable energies are the solution for rural electrification and access to electricity.



Eng Salma Hussein

Egyptian Electricity Utilities and Consumer  
Protection Regulatory Agency

**Eng. Salam Hussein**, in her speech, she specified that it is imperative that access to energy be guaranteed for all.

After a summary on the energy challenges in relation to the Ukrainian crisis, she indicated:

- The need for interconnections to ensure the energy supply
  - The need to discuss SDG 5 (Gender equality) and SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation) which complements SDG 7 and how to implement them taking into account that the most important resource is human capital.
  - The importance of the sustainability of Energies in the creation of future value chains.
  - The importance of government support in these processes
  - The importance of the role of young people who make up 3 billion of the world's population and who represent 60% of the African population.
  - The need to train young people in order to ensure skills in all areas.
  - The need to adopt the choice of sustainability for future generations while guaranteeing parity in the presence of women in all positions and at all levels.
- She concluded with an invitation to all to reflect together for the future.



Dr Augustine NJAMSHI  
Executive Director of the African  
Coalition for Access and Sustainable  
Energy ACSEA

**Dr Augustine Njamnshi** described as unjust the accusation brought against the woman for her role in deforestation in view of the fact that she uses wood for her cooking, recalling that the SDG7 must guarantee accessibility to clean energy at a cost affordable also includes young people and women. He indicated that 800 million Africans do not have access to clean cooking and that is why women must not be left out of the transition wave and that the governing frameworks must be reformed. energy systems in order to guarantee its contribution to the process.

He shared their vision and insisted on building the capacities and skills of young people and women for effective involvement in energy decision-making.

He also spoke of the need for the establishment of governance frameworks that would ensure better involvement of young people to overcome many problems such as migration to cities and unemployment. He recalled that the insecurity and immigration of young people is mainly due to the lack of employability in rural areas. He therefore advocates that through renewable energy in agriculture and the creation of small businesses, young people will be able to empower themselves and be independent enough to make decisions and improve their living conditions.

He added that the need for energy in Africa goes beyond lighting. These are own armament, heating, production and others. The lack of access on the continent mainly affects women. These issues are issues of energy democracy.

Sustainable energy for all is a human right? We would say yes. Governance around energy is essential. For AREI, we believe that the ambition to provide energy should not be limited to energy supply but should extend to governance. The jobless rural exodus is a source of unemployment and delinquency. Access to energy is the key to acceleration for women and young people. The emphasis on training is essential. He said that 800 million Africans do not have access to clean cooking and therefore women should not be excluded from the wave of transition and there is a need to reform frameworks governing energy systems to ensure their contribution to the process.



Eng. Eman Adel  
RCREEE

**Eng. Eman Sadek Adel** in her speech, she underlined the importance of gender mainstreaming in the renewable energy sector because women significantly influence the energy transition. She also spoke of the challenges faced by women in the employability market in general but in particular in the renewable energy sector.

- After COVID 19, women lost 700 million jobs according to UN statistics, while they are not sufficiently represented in the renewable energy sector.
- The lack of participation of women in the recruitment process due to custom.
- Unequal opportunities during the recruitment process due to several barriers such as physical disabilities and lack of flexibility.
- Presence of women in decision-making positions in relation to renewable energies and energy efficiency is 5% compared to 19% in non-executive positions
- Need to strengthen the presence of women by implementing government strategies in this regard, as is the case in Egypt.

The following points were raised in his presentation:

- Why gender diversity is important.
- Employment status of women in the energy sector.
- Existing barriers to advancing the role of women in modern renewable energy.
- Justice for women.

She concluded her intervention with two main recommendations as follows:

- Networking and dialogue
- Strengthen awareness



Mr Mohamed Fayez Hendam

Egyptian Electricity Utilities and Consumer Protection  
Regulatory Agency

**Eng. Mohamed Fayez** affirmed that the energy transition needs young people and regulatory experts must be sensitive to this aspect.

He indicated that renewable energies contribute to:

- Avoid conflicts
- Eradicate poverty

Three pillars exist to strengthen this thesis which are:

- Regulators can encourage demand (raising awareness and integration into national plans)
- Stimulating demand

-Focus on the project pipeline and not just one big project -Creating a pipeline of projects

- Gradually increase the share of local value: Emphasize localization of industry: in auction design.
- Gradual increase in the participatory contribution of the population

He also spoke of the need to improve the working conditions of young people.



# Conclusion



Dr Roberto Ridolfi

Expert in Financing Renewable Energy Projects,

**IDU/AREI**

He concluded by emphasizing:

- The importance of the role of renewable energies and energy efficiency in empowering women and improving their condition
- Youth is the future of the planet
- The importance of the circular economy through renewable energies in maintaining peace and security not only in Africa but in the world



Mr. Mohamed Jalloh

Social and Environmental  
Justice Advocates and  
Community Development  
Specialist

He thanked the participants while indicating that he adopts the report presented and the interventions of all the panelists and that young people must be supported in their quest for innovation financially and through capacity building programs and that the future belongs to Renewable Energies.

## Summary of the panel

Summary of the panel on the role of young women and peace in ER.

After setting the scene, **Dr. Roberto Ridolfi** as co-moderator on the role and impacts on RE, he articulated an intervention on health and peace employment opportunities.

The opening speech was delivered by the President of RCREEE Eng **Maha Mostafa**.

Peace: Sharm El Sheik is the city of peace. Peace begins with sustainable development.

Unfortunately, 600 million people still do not have access to electricity. Ending up in so-called temporary camps despite lasting years where children become young and young adults.

Sustainable energy solutions are needed immediately in remote areas. POV covers small networks that can operate in rural and remote communities. Some tensions of the local population and refugees can be diffused. Just a few examples.

Women play an essential role, but they are often left out. Women working in the energy sector also represent a role model for other sectors. Women occupy only 22% of energy jobs even though they represent 48% of the global workforce. Clean energy is a solution for a clean kitchen and better health. There are good examples in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. RCREEE has prepared training courses to prepare women RE and EE managers.

Youth: it is essential to initiate the energy and ecological transitions that offer world-class, highly attractive opportunities for youth. Let's work together and take our plan by investing in quality of life through transitions. Our workforce will represent our future.

The co-moderator was able to intervene, Mr. **Mohamed Jalloh** intervened by thanking the speakers and adding elements of discussion. We must take this very seriously. In Sierra Leone, the access of young people and women in rural areas is extremely low, which determines the lack of opportunities and synergies for sustainable development. Hydro's 1kw was developed in a community and represents a nano-scale approach to be replicated thousands of times.

Dr **Augustine Njamshi** intervened a woman carrying firewood on her head is a burden that African forests can no longer afford, that women can no longer afford. Energy is not about lighting. It is more for many other activities. The lack of access on the continent mainly affects women. These issues are issues of energy democracy: is sustainable energy for all a human right? We would say yes. Governance around energy is essential. For AREI, we believe that the ambition to provide energy should not be limited to energy supply but should extend to governance. The jobless rural exodus is a source of unemployment and delinquency. Access to energy is the key to acceleration for women and young people. The emphasis on training is essential.

Salma Hussein, Head of Licensing at the Egyptian Regulator, provided input on women and youth.

All issues are okay on ODD7, but ODD5 is essential for ODD7 to be correct! Resources are not all used efficiently. The main resource is human capital. The policy could not be implemented if clear issues of diversification and governance are not addressed. The energy sector is still dominated by men. A woman is not only a workforce, she is also a mother and a teacher of the next generation. Energy efficiency is essentially in the hands of these teachers and managers. The next generation is the 50% youth of the world who are in Africa.

The potential for young people to contribute is enormous. Technologies must be transferred.

Connection to the network grids technologies storage software e mobility represent a huge reservoir of jobs. The training of this young workforce is therefore essential.

**Eng Eman Sadek Adel** from the regional center provided a regional perspective with a presentation with specific training offered by the Center, which is attached as an appendix.

The presentation by Eng Mohamed Fayez talked about the three pillars explaining well that RE fights against poverty.

The discussion part was opened by a reflection of the co-moderator Mr Mohamed Jallow.

Are young people in Africa well trained to land jobs in the RE EE sector?

The monopolistic nature of innovators. Does this affect deployments? Are monopolists good or bad? Incentives should also be planned according to the acceptance of ICT innovation. Global and national decision-makers must allow young people to contribute ideas. In climate change as an emergency, inequalities are increasing, which is essential for the energy transition is essential for democracy and human rights.

Dr. **Roberto Ridolfi** concluded the panel by thanking all participants.