

UNFCCC COP 24
Katowice, Poland

Concept Note
Action Event: Energy

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Saturday, 8 December 2018
10:00 – 13:00

Organised by the MPGCA Energy Team
(ICC, IEA, IRENA, SEforALL, The Climate Group, WBCSD)

MPGCA Energy: Enabling change through energy transition

Description

The energy sector is changing at an unparalleled speed and reshaping economies, societies and markets. The momentum is accelerating, but a decisive shift in the energy system is at an early stage. Where are we today, what are the priorities for action, and how we meet those priorities?

Overall Narrative/Background

To achieve sustainable development and a climate-safe future, transforming energy is of the essence. SDG7 reflects a common understanding on the imperative of universal access to affordable, reliable modern energy services, and the necessity for a simultaneous and significant increase in energy efficiency and deployment of renewables. At the same time, the Paris Agreement highlights the need to plan for the long-term, including through scaled-up technology innovation, and to act today to achieve the set objectives in the coming decades. The Agreement also recognises that averting the effects of climate change will require engagement and action of all stakeholders. The event will feature a diverse geographical, economic and social context to provide an insight into energy transition that is not only speedy but also just and inclusive.

In line with the spirit of the Talanoa Dialogue and the imperative of leaving no one behind, the event will consist of three sessions with the aim of creating a flow of discussion that will focus on innovation and long-term planning in the energy transition while discussing where are we, where we need to be, and how we get there. During the first session, inspiring innovators and entrepreneurs who are on the ground catalysing change in the energy transition will discuss where are we in the energy transition and showcase solutions that are shaping the energy sector of the future. Following this session, a dialogue on the IPCC Special Report, “Global Warming of 1.5°C”, will focus on the energy sector related findings and recommendations. This will be followed by a discussion on how long-term plans, underpinned by policy and regulatory frameworks can provide a pathway to achieve the Paris Agreement’s objectives.

Objective of the event: Impacts and progress made in 2018

The 2018 Tracking SDG7: The Energy Progress Report show that, while some progress has been made, the world is not on track to meet the goal of sustainable energy for all by 2030 or the long-term mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement. Given the profound change that decarbonization of the energy sector involves, long-term planning and strategies have been identified as vital to provide direction and orientation for action. With the 2020 NDC milestone fast approaching, this is a right moment to reflect on progress in this respect and the latest national and regional strategies and long-term plans on energy and showcase initiatives that aim to promote this approach. Complementing this discussion, a range of new and emerging technology, innovative policy, finance and market solutions will be featured, along with the barriers that require urgent attention and can be overcome with a collective effort. A particular focus will be placed on the actions of non-state actors, such as those who are making sourcing of renewables part of their corporate strategy, integrating internal carbon prices into operational and investment decision-making, putting energy efficiency as the “first fuel”, prioritizing integrated solutions (off-grid and on-grid) to reach last mile populations, and spurring energy technology innovation.

Innovation plays a definitive role in the collective ability to change the existing energy system. Technology advancements, underpinned by enabling frameworks, have created a range of options that have been unimaginable only a few years ago. This progress is especially evident in the power sector, which is advancing faster than many predicted and where digitalisation, AI and blockchain technology is reshaping the sector. Achieving an energy system that meets global development and climate objectives, however, requires rapid innovation, in technologies and business models, that spans many sectors and many facets of the economy. The event will bring together practitioners, innovators and entrepreneurs to give a glimpse of the emerging and diverse energy system, and reflect on economic and social impacts that must be taken into account to ensure a just energy transition for a climate-safe and prosperous future for all.

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