



## UNFCCC COP 25

### Concept Note Action Event: Energy

Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action

Saturday, 7 December  
10:00 – 13:00

Organised by IRENA, The Climate Group, ICC, IEA, REN21, SEforAll, UNEP, and WBCSD.

21 November 2019

## MPGCA “Energy”: Climate-Proofing Global Energy Systems

### Description:

To successfully address climate change, it is critical to transition to a low-carbon energy sector as soon as possible. At present, the energy sector, accounts for two-thirds of global emissions. According to the IPCC, the energy sector must be decarbonised by 2050; accelerated renewable energy deployment and ramped-up energy efficiency can significantly help reach this goal. Global energy trends, while promising, still lag behind what is necessary to achieve the climate and sustainable development objectives. By embarking upon a comprehensive energy transition today, we can start to create a better energy system – one capable of ensuring that average global temperatures are no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and assisting in the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions, (NDCs). The energy transition would also bring further socio-economic benefits, including increased economic growth, job creation and overall welfare gains.

As the energy transition touches all facets of economies and societies, it requires a systemic approach to ensure everyone is part of the discussion and no one is left behind. New sources of energy and new ways of distributing energy, supported by applications such as digitisation, artificial intelligence, and innovative business models, introduced new participants to the energy system who can actively contribute to the transition. **This event will look at critical areas where progress is being made and areas that must be accelerated to get on a pathway to 1.5°C by 2050**, as recommended by the IPCC and highlighted at the UN Climate Action Summit. The event will showcase the shift that is occurring in the energy sector, including replicable and scalable actions, and highlight the areas where urgent action is needed to make the change happen. The session will also consider opportunities for creation of resilient energy systems that meet a range of social and economic priorities.

### Objective of the event towards the following issues:

#### **Pre-2020 action:**

- *What are the current challenges, opportunities and metrics (such as data and analysis) for pre-2020 actions to realize the transition using technology, innovation and finance for this thematic area?*
- *What are the pre-2020 actions that have been implemented that accelerates systemic transformation, including changing behavioural patterns and leapfrogging conventional development paths? What needs to be improved or enhanced?*

Significant progress has been made in the power sector with the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficient solutions. However, to set the world on a 1.5°C pathway, and achieve sustainable development goals that leave no one behind, more must be done. Many solutions have emerged for decarbonisation of the power sector, and these solutions are also accelerating progress toward universal access and

contributing to increasing global momentum on energy efficiency, improving energy intensity and accelerating electrification using renewables. An emerging driver for an accelerated transition in energy end-use are companies which are adopting comprehensive energy decarbonization strategies and innovative solutions. Furthermore, electrifying end-use sectors using renewable power allows for increased energy efficiency and improved energy intensity.

However, action in the energy sector must be multiplied and widespread, especially in end-use sectors, such as transport, buildings, and industry. For instance, space cooling alone is expected to be the second-largest source of global electricity demand growth, after industry, by 2050; left unchecked, greening this demand would consume 70% of the projected renewable energy capacity by 2050. In the policy realm, the NDCs are a natural vehicle for increasing the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. The 2020 review of NDCs provides a prime opportunity for countries to commit to further action and reflect these actions in NDCs and long-term plans.

Speakers will discuss the state of the global energy transition and reflect on pre-2020 actions, including the latest, innovative models of participatory approaches. The session will present examples of business models and new scalable solutions to promote replication.

***Climate Action Pathway/Yearbook of Global Climate Action/Global Climate Action portal (NAZCA)***

- *How does the future need to look like in 2050 in order to reach the 1.5-degree, net-zero, resilient goal and how we are moving towards this future?*
- *What are the systemic transformational actions and solutions to transition to this future, providing evidence that is science-based?*

Although there are readily available and economically viable solutions in the energy sector, gaps in plans and strategies that do not ensure a 1.5°C pathway still exist. Investment in a comprehensive transformation – involving not just a mix of technologies but also the policy package to put them in place and optimise their economic and social impact – will be the key to a climate-safe future. To stay below the IPCC’s recommended 1.5°C limit, the world must redirect nearly USD 18.6 trillion of already-planned energy investments from fossil fuels to low-carbon technologies, including efficiency, renewables and enabling infrastructure.

Speakers in this session will showcase examples of countries and companies with ambitious plans and strategies that are aligned with a 1.5°C pathway. Speakers will share examples of policy, technology, finance, and business models that bring stakeholders from the entire energy value chain together to push barriers that hinder the energy transition.

***2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit***

- *How can the transformational outcomes of the UN SG Summit be taken forward and scaled up to accelerate the transition?*

The Climate Action Summit focused on actions and concrete plans to support progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement targets. The Energy Transition track introduced new initiatives led by coalitions of stakeholders to drive decarbonisation of energy systems while ensuring no



one is left behind. The initiatives presented during the Summit addressed the critical need to mobilize investment and to decarbonize hard-to-abate sectors. They included the Climate Investment Platform, Cool Coalition, Energy Storage Initiative, Shipping Initiative, and the Three Percent Club on Energy Efficiency. These initiatives not only demonstrated the actions being taken, but also the current gaps in the energy transition towards a 1.5°C pathway.

Speakers in this session will demonstrate the continued momentum behind these initiatives, including introducing additional partners and commitments, and further reflect how the initiatives will address critical gaps in the energy transition while delivering sustainable development, air pollution reduction, job creation, cleaner cities, better transport and a more inclusive world.

**Types of speakers:**

Speakers will include policy-makers, innovators, private sector, and civil society who can discuss specific plans or initiatives to decarbonise the energy sector and help achieve SDGs and NDCs.

Private sector speakers will be drawn from companies who have committed to the Global Compact, ensuring that the participating businesses meet the Ten Principles of the Global Compact, which includes human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. This session will showcase companies that establish a culture of integrity, uphold responsibilities to people and the planet, setting the groundwork for long-term success.