



## **“Energy for sustainable development in Africa in the post-COVID19 world – looking for the New Normal”**

### **Webinar Series - Concept**

The African Energy Commission (AFREC) of the African Union, the South Centre, and the Clean Energy Innovation Partnership (CEIP) are pleased to collaborate in presenting this series of Zoom webinars on “Energy for sustainable development in Africa in the post-COVID19 world – looking for the New Normal.”

Africa is home for about 1 bn people of many cultures, and by 2050 the population of the continent is expected to double. Currently, low levels of economic development prevent the increase of the quality of life of most African people and generate severe risks of vulnerabilities of men, women and children and ecosystems. Africa, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, has generally low levels of per capita income, energy supply and consumption, road and railroad infrastructure. Very limited access to fertilizers results in low agricultural productivity, leading to food insecurity and inducing deforestation. The unique and diverse ecosystems of the continent are fragile and under continuous pressure. Climate change, deforestation, water and air pollution further deteriorate living conditions and present severe risks to African countries and their peoples.

The COVID-19 outbreak and its consequent economic downturn present additional challenges and pose questions requiring urgent answers. At the same time, the pandemic has already resulted in exploring the post-Covid 19 pandemic New Normal. For instance, a special report by AFREC on the implications of COVID-19 on African Countries and, in particular, on the African Oil Energy Sector has recently been published (<https://www.afrec-energy.org/special-reports.php>). It pinpoints some future measures required, including expanding renewables. The post-Covid 19 pandemic recovery strategies and plans should inform the implementation of “Designing the African Energy sector Transition: An approach for social and economic transformation in a climate compatible manner” developed by AFREC with the support of South Centre.

Short- and long-term success of the pandemic measures depend upon, among others, elements, **strategic vision** reflecting current situation and future uncertainties; and aligning interests of all stakeholders.

In order to build such strategic vision, we have invited leading experts from all parts of Africa and from other parts of the world to take part in a series of webinars, entitled, **“Energy for sustainable development in Africa in the post-COVID19 world – looking for the New Normal”**.

We expect that the webinars will result in collecting comprehensive information and will generate ideas for further work on the strategies development and stakeholders’ engagement that are important and necessary for Africa’s successful energy transition that will meet the needs and priorities of all its citizens and propels its sustainable development.

The first webinar **“COVID-19 impact actions across Africa. First-hand information from policymakers and leading experts”** will take place on **Thursday, 16 July 2020, 1300h GMT**. This discussion will reveal data and information on the multifaceted effects of COVID-19 in several regions of sub-Saharan Africa and responses considered there. Particular attention will be paid to identifying impacts on various stakeholders’ groups

The second webinar “Sustainable Energy for Africa: transition through growth. How to boost output, improve access and reduce impact on the nature and society? Technologies, scenarios, strategies, sources of finance and business models” will take place on **Wednesday, 22 July 2020, 1300h GMT**. Here we will assess existing tools and future uncertainties with the purpose of generating strategic scenarios – realistic, resilient and capable of providing holistic and leasing solutions matching interests of the key stakeholders in various African regions.

The webinars will be held in English.

For more information about this webinar series, please contact:



- The Clean Energy Innovations Partnership - [info.ceipartnership@gmail.com](mailto:info.ceipartnership@gmail.com)

**Moderators:** **Dr. Rashid Ali-Abdallah**, Executive Director, African Energy Commission, African Union  
**Prof Youba Sokona**, Senior Adviser on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, South Centre; Vice-Chair, IPCC

**Webinar Host:** **Dmitry Kalinin**, Partner, Clean Energy Innovations Partnership, Switzerland

**WEBINAR 1**

**“COVID-19 impact actions across Africa. First-hand information from policymakers and leading experts”**

Keynote Speaker		
	<p><b>H.E. Amani Abou-Zeid</b>  <b>African Union</b>  <b>Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy</b></p>	<p>Approaches to facilitate urgent provision of critical energy services to manage the pandemic and key sustainable development challenges and opportunities to be addressed in the post-Covid 19 context.</p>
Panelist		Discussion
	<p><b>Ms. Sheila Oparaocha</b>  <b>International Coordinator and Programme Manager, ENERGIA International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA)</b></p>	<p>Women empowerment, participation and leadership in the post-Covid-19 context and measures to widen access to clean cooking fuel.</p>

**Panelist** **Discussion**

**Mr. Stephen Dihwa**



**Executive Director,  
Coordination Centre,  
Southern African Power  
Pool**

Challenges and opportunities for African utilities post-Covid-19 and the future of regional power pools like the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP).

**Dr. Noureddine Yassaa**



**Commissioner for  
Renewable Energy and  
Energy Efficiency, Algeria**

Challenges in increasing African use of renewable energy and opportunities for Deep Decarbonization of the Algerian economy in the post-Covid 19 context.

**Mr. Wale Shonibare**



**Director, Energy Financial  
Solutions, Policy &  
Regulations  
Power, Energy, Climate &  
Green Growth Complex,  
African Development Bank**

Financial options, approaches and priorities for African countries' sustainable and climate-adapted recovery and AfDB's strategy to support the continent's energy transition post-Covid-19.

**Dr. Abderrezak  
Benyoucef**



**Head, Energy Studies  
Department  
OPEC**

Developments in and prospects of the oil and gas sector and discussion on policies and strategies needed to facilitate Africa's energy self-sufficiency.