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International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada

Joint webinar

Energy and Gender Data in Africa

Date and time: January 30, 2025, from 13:00 p.m. to 15:30 p.m. GMT

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_It5c_NKuSXmOEXRMjkCe7Q

Concept Note

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Context and justification

Home to almost 2.5 billion people by 2050 with eighty percent of them living in Sub-Saharan Africa, the youngest continent in the World is at a crossroads with tremendous opportunities brought about by the very challenges it is facing. The International Renewable Energy Agency - [IRENA](#) (2022) reports that less than half of all people in Sub-Saharan Africa have access to electricity, and as little as 16% have access to clean cooking fuels and technologies. Yet, consistent with an economic transformation of African economies, Africa's economic growth over the recent years has been accompanied by an increase in supply of, and demand for various types of energy, including electricity, oil and petroleum products, natural gas, biomass, renewable energies (solar, wind, geothermal, etc.).

Africa's endowment with abundant potential for bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower, ocean, solar and wind energy that is 1 000 times larger than projected demand for electricity in 2040 makes the energy transition a unique opportunity for the entire continent (IRENA and AfDB, 2022). The International Renewable Energy Agency - IRENA (2022) report on [Renewable Energy Market Analysis: Africa and its Regions](#), assesses that a global reduction in CO2 emissions consistent with the Paris agreement could have a significant, positive impact on gross domestic product (GDP), job creation, and welfare across Africa, through ways such as reduced climate impacts, improved public health, and the creation of new industries that support the Energy Transition in and outside of Africa. That is, Africa's contribution to CO2 emissions may be negligible, but there is a lot at stake for Africa in a global reduction with Africa's contribution.

Key to leveraging the potential presented by the energy transition for Africa's development is the need for quality and reliable data to track progress and plan accordingly. The high prevalence of economic informality in Africa however presents a major challenge. The [International Monetary Fund](#) – IMF (2022) reports that North African economies are characterized by significant informality in business activity and employment with about two-thirds of workers in North Africa operating without any formal arrangement and social protection, and about 30 percent of GDP estimated to stem from the informal sector. The [World bank](#) (2019) also estimates that over the period 2010-16, the informal economy in SSA countries amounted on average to 36-40 percent of official GDP and informal employment made up 90 percent of employment.

For some demographic groups, the adverse impact of economic informality is compounded by gender-biased social norms that very often inform sub-optimal decisions and choices at the household level, at the community level, and sometimes at the national level. There is therefore a risk of the energy transition boosting economic growth in Africa but also exacerbating inequalities, including gender inequality and youth economic vulnerability. These considerations led major development actors to call for people-centred energy transition (International Energy Agency – [IEA, 2021](#)), and to invest in policy and business-oriented research to fill existing knowledge gaps (Canada's International Development Research Centre – [IDRC, 2023](#)).

To inform its strategic planning and engagement with key stakeholders of the African energy landscape, the African Energy Commission (AFREC) is partnering with IDRC to take stock of knowledge gap and data through a webinar on “energy and gender data in Africa” featuring international experts, African policymakers, and relevant stakeholders.

Objectives

The objectives of this webinar are:

- Take stock at the mainstreaming of gender and inclusion considerations into national energy strategies in selected African countries and as well as in business strategies.
- Identify data and knowledge gaps on energy and gender in Africa.
- Reflect on the potential consequences of gender and inclusion data dearth for an inclusive and transformative energy transition in Africa.
- Make actionable recommendations to relevant stakeholders for course correction, including national and regional policy bodies, development partners, CSO and the private sector.

Expected results

The expected results include:

- A socialisation of good practices for mainstreaming gender and inclusion considerations into national energy information systems and business strategies.
- A common understanding of the knowledge and data gaps to foster an inclusive and transformative energy transition in Africa.
- A list of priority action points for key stakeholders to the African energy sector.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants to the webinar will include key stakeholder from the African energy ecosystem. That is, national and regional policymakers, development partners, the private sector, academia/researchers, civil society organizations, youth, etc.

PANELISTS

Panellists (tentative) include:

- Representative of Ministry of Energy, Mining, and Environment of Morocco.
- Representative of Department of Mineral Resources and Energy of South Africa.
- Representative of Energy Commission of Ghana
- Representative of Ministry of Energy and Petroleum of Kenya
- Prof Bipasha Baruah (she/her), Canada Research Chair in Global Women's Issues & Member of College of the Royal Society of Canada - The University of Western Ontario
- Mr Nougbohohoue Samson Bel-Aube, Head - Energy Information System & Statistics Division African Energy Commission (AFREC)
- Karnika Yadav (she/her), Partner & Africa Director - Intellectap Advisory Services

Moderator: Flaubert Mbiekop, Snr Program Specialist - International Development Research Centre (IDRC)

Draft Agenda

Time	Content	Presenter
13:05	Opening remarks	Mr. Rashid Ali Abdallah – Executive Director, African Energy Commission
13:10	Opening remarks	Ms. Erin Tansey – Director, Sustainable Inclusive Economies, IDRC
13:20	Importance of Gender for African Energy Information System (AEIS)	Mr. Nougbohoue Samson Bel-Aube, Head - Energy Information System & Statistics Division African Energy Commission (AFREC)
13:45	Integration of Gender into Renewable Energy Statistics	Morocco and South Africa
14:00	Integration of Gender into Clean Cooking Statistics	Kenya
14:15	Integration of Gender into Biomass Statistics	Ghana
14:30	Documenting clean cooking adoption and related health, economic and environment benefits to unlock climate finance for women & girls in Africa	Ruchi Sankrit Ruchi, Manager-Intellectcap Advisory Services
14:45	Expert insights and perspective on “Energy and Gender Data in Africa”	Prof Bipasha Baruah, Canada Research Chair in Global Women's Issues & Member of College of the Royal Society of Canada - The University of Western Ontario
15:15	Questions and Answers	All
15:30	Way forward and Closings Remarks	AFREC and IDRC