

SAVE THE DATE

# High-Level Hearing on Renewable Energy and Clean Cooking

## GROWING THE SUB-REGIONAL ENERGY MARKET

18–19 November, 2019 • Freetown, Sierra Leone



### This Policy Dialogue will

- facilitate in-depth discussions on specific technical and political areas of relevance for the uptake of renewable energy and clean cooking,
- identify concrete opportunities for regional cooperation (on a project level and through knowledge and data sharing),
- unveil prospects of national and regional legislators, who have a critical role to play in scaling up renewable energy and regional integration,
- mark the beginning of a joint roadmap development for accelerating renewable energy and clean cooking in MRU countries.

### This policy dialogue will convene the following stakeholder groups from the Mano River Union (MRU) countries:

- Senior Government Representatives
- Members of Parliament
- Senior Representatives from international Civil Society Organisations
- Energy Regulators and Experts

### Confirmed speakers include:

- **Hon. Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkellah**, Member of Parliament Sierra Leone and Leader of the NGC Parliamentary Group
- **Bärbel Höhn**, chair of the Global Renewables Congress, former member of the German Parliament and acting Commissioner for Energy Reform in Africa for the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development

### The policy dialogue will focus on four key topics:

1. Energy access
  2. Regional power trade
  3. 'Energy Nexus' (energy-health and economic development)
  4. Clean Cooking
- Expanding electricity access on the African continent is essential. Not only is it a primary concern for African governments – it is also recognized as a top priority by the international community.
  - Across ECOWAS, and in the Mano River Union sub-region in particular, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, energy sector leaders are prioritizing deployment of decentralized renewable energy sources.
  - Standalone systems, appliances for households, small businesses and clean energy mini-grids can help stimulating productive, income-generating activities across key growth sectors.
  - Leaders of Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Cote D'Ivoire will be brought into the nascent Global Coalition on Clean Cooking, given the importance of the issue and related social and environmental impact in each of the four countries.
  - Through demonstration of clear leadership and increased coordination, the MRU can help to incentivize new ECOWAS-wide political commitments and projects required to turn the tide on Clean Cooking.
  - This high-level hearing presents an opportunity for policy makers (ministers and legislators), regional institutions and their partners to share lessons learned, develop and launch pilot projects, and host national and regional investors and partners.

# Draft Programme

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

## High-Level Opening

with wide attendance from Government officials and ministries, sector entities, district council representatives, NGOs and select Ministry of Energy guests as well as Bärbel Höhn, former MP of the German Parliament and acting Commissioner for Energy Reform in Africa for the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development

## Session 1 – Minister's Stage – key successes, new opportunities in their respective sectors

with Hon. Dr. Kandeh Yumeklla former UN under-Secretary-General for Sustainable Energy for All and MP for Sierra Leone

## Session 2 – Overview of sub-regional integration efforts for energy in the MRU

Networking Lunch

## Session 4 – Parallel Technical / Legislative Sessions

### Breakout sessions with the following options:

- 1) Levelling the off-grid/on-grid subsidy playing-field: taking a more bold and innovative approach
- 2) Mano River Union: Review of projects for sub-regional energy trade (including CLSG) and estimating overall market readiness
- 3) Promoting Productive Use of Energy (PUE) to increase project viability
- 4) The role of Parliament in RE development – regulatory environment, financial incentives, target setting etc.
- 5) Mano River Union – joint planning towards a priority sub-regional project
- 6) Developing a pipeline of bankable projects

### Breakout sessions with the following options:

- 1) Standards and Taxation for Off-Grid Solar – Roadmap for MRU harmonization
- 2) The role of energy utilities: how to solve the challenges of financial sustainability, management and losses
- 3) The role of Natural Gas in MRU energy trade; exploration of projects to import LNG terminals
- 4) Access to finance, and locally embedded financing models for Renewable Energy
- 5) Modelling energy transition roadmaps – introduction of case studies



Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Ministerial and Experts panel, chaired by Hon. Kandeh Yumkella

Session 2 – Energy and Health: The Human Dimension

Session 3 – an MRU Roadmap for Integration (Closing Plenary)

Networking Lunch

Session 4 – Field Visits

## REGISTRATION

This event is by invitation only – personalized invitations will follow this Save The Date message.

## CONTACT

**Sahr Abraham Grass-Sessay**, Coordination Consultant,  
High Level Coalition of Leaders for Clean Cooking in Africa  
[abrahamsessay@yahoo.com](mailto:abrahamsessay@yahoo.com)

**Anna Leidreiter**, Director Climate Energy, World Future Council  
and Coordinator of the Global Renewables Congress  
[Anna.Leidreiter@worldfuturecouncil.org](mailto:Anna.Leidreiter@worldfuturecouncil.org)