



**RENEWABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE 2023 (REC23) & Expo**  
**16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2023**  
**Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala Uganda**



*A Clean Energy Future for All*

*All our times are local (East African Time)*

**PRE-CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

**00:00-23:59**

- Arrival of Participants into the country
- Registration of Exhibitors
- Set up of exhibition stalls
- Coordination of participants to their respective residences

**DAY 1**

**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

**07:00- 08:00**

**Arrival and Registration**

*Speke Ballroom*

**08:00- 09:00**

**Renewable Energy Teens Club**

*Speke Ballroom*

Schools have initiated skilling of kids about renewable energy and its benefits. This is intended to prepare the future generation to be advocates for a sustainable future. This session will bring together Teens from different schools to discuss and debate renewable energy, energy transition and climate change, and suggest options to advance their awareness, advocacy, and adoption.

**09:00 - 10:00**

**High-Level Roundtable: A Clean Energy Future for All**

*Speke Ballroom*

The role of Diplomatic Missions in driving energy diplomacy agenda cannot be over emphasized. Missions are key in accelerating energy transition that is just, inclusive and universal. Missions have been at the forefront in promoting energy efficiency, renewable technologies and well-functioning energy markets and ecosystems. In the face of the energy geopolitical risk and climate impact associated with fossil fuels, Missions have been called upon to support countries of residence to align their plans and strategies towards cleaner energy systems. In pursuit of a clean and just energy transition that ensures sustainable, secure and affordable energy, it is important that Diplomats dialogue on successes and misses energy diplomacy in the global South. The session will serve as a Call to Action for the Panelists.

**10:00 - 10:30**

**Opening Ceremony**

*Speke Ballroom*

Opening Remarks

International Solar Alliance, International Renewable Energy Agency, Sustainable Energy for All, Global Off Grid Lighting Association, Permanent Secretary, Minister & Prime Minister

**10:30 – 11:00**

**Guided Tour, Breakfast and Media Briefing**

*Exhibition Area*



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**MID-MORNING SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**11:00 – 12:00**      **Commitment is an Act, not a Word: The Oil & Gas Industry's Decarbonization Expedition**

*Speke Ballroom*

The Oil & Gas industry's operational emissions account for more than 10% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. While supporting the transition to lower-carbon alternatives, it is critical for Oil & Gas companies to also decarbonize their operations rapidly: reducing methane leaks, venting and flaring; improving energy efficiency; using renewable power and carbon capture technologies. This session will highlight best industry practices including new technologies and discuss policy enablers to encourage the industry's decarbonization. The session will discuss the challenges for the Global South to access the energy transition resources at an affordable cost while driving their decarbonization as part of potential sustainable development pathways.

**11:00 – 12:00**      **Scaling Electric Mobility in Developing Countries**

*Jacaranda Hall*

On average, Uganda emits 4.9 million tons of carbon dioxide per year. Combined, the transport and agriculture sectors represented 62% of national emissions in 2000 and are projected to represent 70% by 2030 under a 'business as usual' scenario. The transport sector is particularly vulnerable to potential disruptive events caused by climate change. Transport energy is a vast and costly consumer of energy, carbon emitter, and fatal polluter in the global south. But a boom is underway in startups offering electric vehicles that cost less to buy and operate. This session will discuss solutions, the carbon savings of transport electrification, and the policy and financing instruments required to make it happen.

**11:00 – 12:00**      **Green Jobs: Readiness, Opportunities and Bottlenecks in the Energy Transition**

*Ebony Hall*

Achieving universal energy access relies on creating and cultivating renewable energy jobs, providing a global opportunity to drive employment and economic growth. However, more workforce investments are needed, especially when it comes to women and youth. Transition to green economy could create, but also kill jobs. This session will discuss the level of readiness, opportunities and bottlenecks for the new employment opportunities in the Energy Transition. The session will highlight several new initiatives working to build the skills and ecosystems required by the energy practitioners of the future. Panelists from Ministries of Gender, Labor and Social Development, companies in the energy space, development partners, academia and civil society organizations will present the opportunities and tools available for youth to harness the green careers of the present and future.



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**11:00 – 12:00**

**Towards New Energy Systems and Technologies**

*Mahogany Hall*

This session will highlight the importance of innovation and technology in enabling the transition to low-carbon energy systems. This session will highlight the importance of innovation and technology in enabling the transition to low-carbon energy systems, and will focus on technical solutions for electricity systems, such as, battery storage, smart grids, and other technologies, and the enablers required to scale up these solutions. New and less exploited clean energy sources such as Nuclear, Geothermal and others will be discussed too.

**MID-DAY SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**12:00 – 13:00**

**Delivering Clean Energy at a Time of Global Crisis – Energy Security and Climate Change**

*Speke Ballroom*

This high-level panel session will start with the launch of Uganda’s Energy Transition Plan, and Energy Compact. Ministers of Energy, leaders of Development Financial Institutions and energy security experts will discuss ways to address the current energy crisis and the long-term pathways to transition away from fossil fuels. They will highlight strategies that countries can adopt to improve energy security while advancing the transition to a low-carbon economy.

**12:00 – 13:00**

**Sustainable Transport and Fossil Blending Mobility**

*Jacaranda Hall*

The session will include the official announcement of the gazettelement of the licensing and regulations for biofuels blending by the Government of Uganda initiative in support of equitable, healthy, green and resilient transport pathways, in Uganda and the Global South. Innovative technologies will be showcased that are geared towards low-carbon, affordable and healthy transport solutions in the urban environment in the Global South. Private sector in ethanol value chain, government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and Development Partners will form the panel to discuss the pitfalls, advances and critical success factors for the biofuels programme in Uganda, and the region.

**12:00 – 13:00**

**Grid Efficiency and Resilience: Electricity Theft and Infrastructure Vandalism**

*Ebony*

Most transmission and distribution grids today result in up to over 20% of electricity lost to inefficiency. Efficient grids provide better electricity services without the need to expand power generation, with many sustainable development benefits. Besides the inefficiency, electricity theft and infrastructure vandalism vices present additional



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bottlenecks to grid reliance in Africa. Experiences elsewhere has shown that digital technologies for foresight and response escalation exist, but not much has been done in the Global South. This session will raise awareness on the advances and accelerate partnerships to tackle opportunities for efficient and resilient grids in Africa.

**12:00 – 13:00**

**Towards a Green Hydrogen Economy: Policies and Strategies for Catalyzing Energy Transition and Sustainable Development**

*Mahogany*

The session will focus on the potential for Africa and developing countries to become major green hydrogen producers, the related economic and job growth opportunities, and the financing gap needed in the global south to achieve this potential. The transition from a global economy dependent on fossil fuels, to a green hydrogen and renewable fuels-based economy is happening now. Developing green hydrogen value chains can yield economic value, create jobs and contribute to achieving global emission reduction targets. Green hydrogen and its derivatives (e.g., green ammonia, e-fuels) will be critical to reduce the emissions of hard-to-abate and hard-to-electrify sectors such as heavy industries, aviation, and shipping or heavy road transportation. The session will bring together technology, policy experts, economists, and financial leaders to discuss the latest developments in this field, and propose enablers required to scale up the solutions. Panelists will include Hydrogène de France SA ("HDF Energy") group that is developing a hydrogen based storage green power generation plant as an alternative source of electricity in Uganda; H<sub>2</sub> Agro Uganda Limited developing a hydrogen industrial complex at the Karuma Hydropower Plant; IPS Consortium investing green hydrogen for ammonium based fertilizers; Global Gases Group investing in Green Hydrogen for Remote electrification on islands in lake Victoria, and K2R that has proposed to harness the potential of H<sub>2</sub> as a Fuel.

**13:00- 14:00**

**Exhibition Tour, Media Tour and Lunch**

*Restaurant & Exhibition Area*

**1<sup>ST</sup> AFTERNOON SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**14:00 – 15:00**

**Clean Cooking Industry Trends in Africa: Past, Present and the Future Outlook and Perspectives**

*Speke Ballroom*

To match the universal needs of clean cooking, there is an earnestness for augmented investment. Increased capital and public-private partnerships can help millions of people gain access to clean cooking by 2030. This session will explore investment and market trends, spotlight business model innovations in the sector, and discuss emerging market drivers and inhibitors.

**14:00 – 15:00**

**SMEs Role in Scaling Energy Access in the Global South**

*Jacaranda Hall*



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Access to energy needs to grow faster to meet the increasing demand for it across Africa. However, this growth must also achieve the targets of SDG 7. This session will explore the role of smaller, locally owned businesses to address this complex problem, discussing types of financing, services, policy and regulatory enablers that support African led or owned SMEs.

**14:00 – 15:00**

**Leveraging and Transforming Water-Energy-Food Nexus Across Farming Landscapes in Eastern and Southern Africa**

*Ebony Hall*

Sub-Saharan Africa currently faces limited access to natural capital, social services and basic infrastructure, compounded by increased climate vulnerability. Meanwhile, the sub-region has strong renewable energy potential that could trigger socio-economic growth and enable several sustainable development agenda. This session will explore how to accelerate clean energy access that leverages the water-energy-food nexus in rural areas, in the sub-region.

**14:00- 15:00**

**Transforming Livelihoods by Scaling Productive Energy Uses**

*Mahogany Hall*

Productive uses of energy (PUE) can transform rural livelihoods and decarbonize agricultural value chains through the use of sustainable energy. PUE entrepreneurs need access to investment capital and subsidies and other incentives to scale operations and serve low-income and last-mile consumers, supported by policy and regulatory frameworks that guarantee a level playing field. This session will discuss how energy entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers can enhance collaboration to grow this promising and socio-economic transformative ecosystem.

**2<sup>ND</sup> AFTERNOON SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**15:00- 16:00**

**Scaling Finance: Equitable Transitions and Clean Cooking**

*Speke Ballroom*

Achieving scale in the clean cooking sector requires a holistic approach across the value chain. By spotlighting Uganda, this session will showcase how with the correct ingredients – integrated energy access planning, greater coordination among actors and innovative finance mechanisms – can unlock greater investment opportunities.

**15:00- 16:00**

**East African Community: Unlocking an Inclusive Energy Transition**

*Jacaranda Hall*

EAC has achieved a significant milestone in village and household electrification. However, grid reliability creates many health and pollution challenges for local communities, and impacts millions of electricity-dependent commercial and institutional customers. This session will explore improvements in grid reliability in rural



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communities, to bolster the on- and off-grid sectors, and ultimately help achieve EAC's modern energy access and transition goals, at a regional scale.

**15:00- 16:00**

**Last-mile and Refugee and Displaced Communities: Energy for All**

*Ebony Hall*

This session will explore how to build energy markets that reach the bottom of the pyramid with life changing energy products and services, drawing from first-hand experiences in humanitarian and other last-mile contexts. The discussion will interest anyone keen to work in partnership to collectively ramp-up sustainable energy access in the hardest-to-reach communities. Discussions will also cover financing mechanisms for de-risking and incentivizing private sector supply value chains, and demand side subsidies.

**15:00- 16:00**

**Accelerating Energy Efficiency in Agriculture and Built Environments**

*Mahogany Hall*

Energy efficiency is fundamental to delivering just and equitable energy transitions. This session will champion enhanced narratives on energy efficiency, collect related commitments and bring together partners to support progress and achieve goals. Panelist led by SNV, Makerere University College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) and Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) will share lessons from the Inclusive Markets for Energy Efficiency in Uganda (IMEU) initiative, on sustainable, inclusive markets for appropriate energy efficient (EE) products and services for households, businesses, and institutions in agriculture and the built environment, to enhance livelihoods and increase the resilience and competitiveness of businesses in Uganda. Efficient solutions to replace outdated and inefficient systems across entire sectors and in doing so spur sustainable growth in Uganda and the COMESA region will be discussed. The session aims to rouse participants and set the tone that clean, efficient and profitable solutions to protect the environment do exist.

**3<sup>RD</sup> AFTERNOON SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**16:00 – 17:00**

**Scaling up Urgent Action to Fast Track Energy Transition and Clean Cooking**

*Speke Ballroom*

This session will focus on the urgency and scale of actions by policy makers, institutions, and all stakeholders across scales. It will bring youth, civil society, the private sector, and governments together in a constructive dialogue to ensure the urgency and scale of implementation needed is materialized to secure clean energy, a stable climate, and sustainable development for all. It will also provide an opportunity for stakeholders to share progress on global commitments to date, review the COP27 resolutions and look ahead to COP28.



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**16:00 – 17:00**

**Financial aggregation for the Clean Energy Transition**

*Jacaranda Hall*

Accelerating the trend of clean energy finance, will require innovative mechanisms, e.g., blended finance partnerships, just energy transition platforms. The Keynote Address will be a presentation of Market Assessment and Action Plan for Financial Aggregation for Distributed Renewable Energy in Uganda developed by TFE Africa for UNDP in the context of the Climate Aggregation Platform (CAP). The session will gather representatives of governmental agencies, DFIs, commercial banks & philanthropies.

**16:00 – 17:00**

**Reinventing Waste Solutions for Better Future**

*Ebony Hall*

The session will host representatives Cities, Municipalities and Towns from Uganda and the region to discuss the waste management ecosystem and the aspirations for a better future. The NAMA on Integrated Waste Management and Biogas in Uganda will be the highlight of the discussions. Panelists will be drawn from UNDP, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Directorate of Water Resources Management (DWRM), National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC), Department of Fisheries Resources and the Directorate of Animal Resources (DAR) in the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF), Representatives from the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area, Mbarara, Masaka, Jinja and Mbale, and Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).

**16:00 – 17:00**

**Sustainable Biomass Resources: Bio Economy and Bioenergy**

*Mahogany Hall*

Sustainable production and utilization biomass resources for solid (charcoal, wood, etc.) and liquid (biofuels) is critical to avoid causing indirect land use change (ILUC) emissions. One way to achieve this, is through the development of systems of low ILUC-risk certification, setting rules to allow certification of projects that can deliver additional biomass without impacting existing markets. Low ILUC-risk production approaches include restoring low quality land, improving crop productivity, and implementing novel agricultural approaches like intercropping. This session will discuss the rules that are being developed to certify these projects, and the prospect for low ILUC-risk projects in developing countries. The session will also address identification of sites where potential low-ILUC biomass production can be achieved. Finally, the session will present case studies and examples on social acceptance, involvement of stakeholders and sustainability assessment, with examples of utilization of geospatial tools and systems, certification schemes, bioenergy and nutrition links, integrated farming systems and techno- economic and environmental assessments.

**17:00 – 19:00**

**Cocktail, Networking & Exhibition**



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**DAY 2**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

**08:00 – 08:30**

**Arrival and Registration**

*Speke Ballroom*

**1<sup>ST</sup> MORNING SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**08:30 – 09:30**

**Fossils in Integrated Energy Transition: Is Net or Zero Carbon Dream Realistic and Feasible in Africa?**

*Speke Ballroom*

Globally, we are faced with an extraordinary energy emergency augmented by energy geopolitical realisms and climate change. Partisan drivers to attain energy independence and the radical need to reduce energy prices are catalyzing significant opportunities to decarbonize our energy system. Innovation trends towards electrification and the digitization of zero carbon technologies are accelerating tangible decarbonization opportunities towards a net zero energy system. However, there is a realistic debate around net zero, what it means and its feasibility. It has been recommended that businesses need to step up the pace of clean energy deployment and climate action, and push for stronger more decisive national and regional action plans to track the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement. This session will discuss how companies can adopt real climate solutions and implement net zero roadmaps with short-term targets that support long-term climate goals; how we can create a sense of urgency to decarbonize rather than rely on carbon offsetting and carbon removal technologies; how we should move beyond net zero to absolute zero, how we can use the current energy emergency to deliver a zero carbon, reliable and resilient global energy system accessible to all, how to accelerate the speed of the transition, the role of nuclear and emerging fuels in the fossil fuel phase down, and how to deliver the Global Methane Pledge.

**08:30 – 09:30**

**Unless Both Sides Win, No Agreement Can Be Permanent: Women and Energy Dialogues**

*Jacaranda Hall*

The energy transition cannot be achieved unless women equally lead, participate in and benefit from sustainable energy. This session will bring together women leaders to discuss matters of Gender within the energy agenda. The session will provide a platform for women and activists to share their experiences, lessons learned, and best practices on in gender advocacy. It will also be a platform for institutions and governments to commit to include more women and enhance their meaningful participation and resilience within the clean energy agenda from debate to policy to implementation and beyond. The panelists will highlight the significance of harnessing women's different perspectives into energy finance policies, and it will also highlight how energy finance should be used to empower women to take gender-sensitive energy action within a Just Transition. The session will also focus on how to leverage opportunities for women living in different communities within just transition, and to support them in addressing the consequences and harnessing opportunities in the energy transition. The session will





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also serve as a call to action to develop gender-transformative initiatives and endorse the Gender and Energy Compact.

**08:30 – 09:30**

**Innovation and Financing Mechanisms for Scaling Clean Energy Deployment and Access in Last Mile**

*Ebony Hall*

Clean energy solutions are needed to decarbonize our infrastructure and markets. The bottlenecks are around deployment and the cost of integration. We need innovative policies and financing models that use public funding to de-risk and leverage private capital, reduce the green premium making green solutions cost-competitive. The private sector must take the lead in driving collaboration on the climate agenda through nurturing and implementing sustainable clean energy innovations. This Panel will discuss options for de-risking carbon and climate investments to accelerate and upscale energy and climate action, recommend sustainable net zero innovations that are affordable for reducing the green premium, and how to fast track the innovation adoption trajectory in Africa.

**08:30 – 09:30**

**Carbon Markets for the Poor: Leveraging the Carbon Markets to Drive Clean Energy Transition and Safeguard Nature in the Global South?**

*Mahogany Hall*

Carbon markets are rapidly growing as companies and consumers look to offset the environmental impact of their choices. Despite this, concerns still remain on the capacity needs, how to meet the demand for a quality global carbon market that operates effectively to ensure genuine impact for the planet; what the opportunities of digital technology and its role in building on the foundation set by current standards; and available standard for certifying carbon credits. These topics will be the subject of this session.

**2<sup>ND</sup> MORNING SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**09:30 – 10:30**

**Promoting Effective and Equitable Community Networks and Alliances for Energy Transition**

*Speke Ballroom*

This session will discuss the effectiveness of networks and alliances for Energy Transition – constraints and opportunities. The panel will introduce the status of networks and alliances effectiveness and how it relates to the Energy Transition targets, equity, fairness, participation and sustainability. In addition to panelists the audience will discuss various questions and issues: How can we improve management effectiveness of networks and alliances for Energy Transition? What lessons are we learning? What actions do we need to implement? What are the gaps and how can we fill them?



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**09:30 – 10:30**

**Affirmative Action for Local Content: Advocacy for Inclusivity in the DRE Markets in Africa**

*Jacaranda Hall*

This session will explore competences needed in the energy sector and the level of support to drive the local content agenda across Africa energy Markets. Panelists will share experiences on gender and indigenous companies' inclusivity and potential tools to catalyze concrete ways to bring women and locals back to the centre of clean energy discourse; the role of umbrella Associations; and the level of awareness of the challenges facing marginalized groups and how to support them in ensuring the effective energy planning, production and consumption. Panelists will answer questions around what the most important drivers and affirmative actions to keep communities and vulnerable incentivized, dedicated, and capable.

**09:30 – 10:30**

**Climate Change and Renewable Energy: Securing an Energy and Climate Resilient Future for People and Planet**

*Ebony Hall*

This session will discuss the global strategy for adaptation and mitigation to secure resilient energy and ecosystems for people and planet in Africa. Panelists will speak on: managing energy market ecosystems for increased resilience and low-carbon communities; how nature-based solutions represents an opportunity for clean energy and climate adaptation and mitigation goals; how DRE certification could be an innovative tool to for clean energy and energy climate mitigation and adaptation; and lessons on carbon financing to drive more impactful actions in Africa. Panelists and the audience will discuss questions such as: What role can DREs play to address climate impacts, what innovative strategies and transformative solutions are required (in terms of knowledge, policy, finance, and implementation)? What bold commitments should be taken during REC23 and COP28 to drive the sector desired in the future?

**09:30 – 10:30**

**Role of Science, Technology and Indigenous Knowledge in Just Energy Transition**

*Mahogany Hall*

This session will make a case on why science, technology, and traditional knowledge are important for the clean energy transition. Panelists will share experiences on village organization and social and productive use of energy across Africa, options for systems that are more human-centred, and culturally sensitive. Connecting clean energy initiatives to ecological networks to catalyze long term viability, sustainable development and improved wellbeing. Discussant will recommend how to explore connectivity, innovations to accelerate energy inclusive interventions, and look to opportunities to capitalize on to secure a connected and energy resilient communities' nature and people. Academicians will demonstrate how they have used scientific analysis to understand the impacts of energy systems and climate change on community livelihoods. Session will also focus on how to develop a scientific hub for energy research and to assess how academic institutions were successful in developing partnerships in energy research, and what is needed to harmonize efforts to advance collaboration in implementing research findings. It is important to discuss the current state of energy education and capacity building and efforts to make quality skills



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development accessible to all. Finally, all the stakeholders will discuss how to facilitate community organizational development to promote clean energy transformation and natural resources conservation, how do you promote an alternative framework for coexistence of communities, energy needs and biomass, and how to promote science and technology and indigenous knowledge to facilitate sharing of energy and conservation innovations.

**10:30 – 11:00**      **Breakfast and Media Briefing**

**MID-MORNING SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**11:00 – 12:00**      **Leapfrogging to Sustainable Transport in Africa**

*Speke Ballroom*

This session will examine the possibilities and strategies needed to decarbonize our transport industry in Africa. Fossil fuels are a key resource for our energy supply on the continent. It is thus no surprise that the transport sector plays a central role in  $CO_2$  emissions, with 29 % of total  $CO_2$  emissions from the combustion of coal, crude oil, and natural gas attributable to the transport sector.

**11:00 – 12:00**      **Promoting a Just, Effective and Equitable Energy Transition in Sub-Saharan Africa**

*Jacaranda Hall*

Achieving more effectiveness through collective action, subsidiarity and complimentary platforms on clean energy will be the subject of this panel. Panelists will share targets and visions of common networks of RECs, CAADP Pillar 4 institutions and continental alliances in driving a just and equitable Energy transition. Successes and lessons learnt in the continent and elsewhere will be shared and discussed. Innovative Platforms and Alliances for a Just Transition will be on the menu. The discussion will address the need to consider how countries can develop and mobilize the capacity to meet their NDC and SDG7 targets. If countries support and achieve an ambitious, multi-dimensional target along these lines, they need to be supported to catalyze their own knowledge and skills but also be equipped with tools and resources to achieve and measure progress. Exploring opportunities and priorities for community energy cooperatives and initiatives to scale up coverage, impact, and community benefits across the continent will be the focus.

**11:00 – 12:00**      **People: Championing Community-Led Energy Transition**

*Ebony Hall*

There is a growing consensus that to address the Energy Transition and climate change crisis requires the support and scale of solutions indigenous people, local communities, and grassroots initiatives offer. Indigenous peoples and local communities are a critical part of the solution, despite not always being equitably involved in the discourse. The



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panel will provide case studies from some grassroots leaders who are championing innovative, and successful community led energy programmes.

**11:00 – 12:00**

**Leveraging Cultural Leadership: Opportunities, Rights, Governance and Equity in Clean Cooking**

*Mahogany Hall*

There will be a Cultural Leadership Dialogue that will bring together Spouses of Kings and Other Traditional Leaders to discuss on “Upholding clean cooking access rights, promoting good governance and equity”. Discussions will address good governance and access rights, approaches to implementation of these principles, and experiences of challenges faced by cultural institutions and what they have learnt about natural resources governance. Panelists will discuss on how to address historical and current injustices in energy development, recommendations for enhancing their respective institutions contribution, and how to foster respectful and supportive relationships between civil and traditional institutions in the clean energy discourse.

**MID-DAY SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**12:00 – 13:00**

**Empowering National Renewable Energy Associations (NREAs): Private Sector Trailblazers for an Energy Secure Future**

*Speke Ballroom*

The session will discuss the role and support that NREAs provide in the energy access markets, as well as the current state of NREAs in different off-grid markets. The session will also address the unique role of effective partnerships in ensuring the sustainability and effectiveness of NREA actions. Best examples of current partnerships that have enhanced the significant role and capacity of NREAs, and the missing gap for their proliferation will also be discussed.

**12:00 – 13:00**

**Civil Society and Shaping the Energy Transition Discourse: Legacy and Prospects”**

*Jacaranda Hall*

This session will examine the important role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in advocating for and representing their members in their respective markets, as well as the next steps for further strengthening of their part. The introduction aims at showcasing the critical role of civil society in shaping the global energy agenda and implementation of commitments and pledges under SDG7.



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**12:00 – 13:00**      **Investing in Clean Energy: Diversifying innovative Financing Models for the Global South**

*Ebony*

This Governance Dialogue will bring development partners, Heads of Mission, government and private sector leaders together to discuss and make suggestions as to how global cooperation can be improved and better achieved and provide a critical overview on investments in clean energy. Panelists will discuss and respond to questions such as what the impact, challenges and what needs to be done differently to ramp up accessible, affordable and patient financing for the energy transition.

**12:00 – 13:00**      **Clean Cooking: Unlocking the Opportunities of DREs to Cooking Cleaner**

*Mahogany*

This session will introduce the importance of clean cooking in Africa. Panelists will deliver and discuss the cooking sector in sub-Saharan Africa, and highlight key issues, challenges, and opportunities for the future and reflect on the role of DREs in this space. Panelists will develop these ideas as to what we need to do differently to unlock the potential of DREs for cooking, align our actions with the Energy Transition targets and understand how to fast track our actions. The Panelists and indeed that audience will talk about how to move beyond the business-as-usual funding model to sustainable financing for clean cooking in the continent.

**13:00- 14:00**      **Exhibition Tour, Media Tour and Lunch**

*Restaurant & Exhibition Area*

**1<sup>ST</sup> AFTERNOON SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**14:00 – 15:00**      **Innovative Technologies to Scale Finance for DRE Projects**

*Speke Ballroom*

The session will feature presentations and facilitate interactive discussion with private sector companies on innovative and cutting-edge technologies that can help attract, de-risk and catalyze investment in the DRE sector in emerging markets.

**14:00 – 15:00**      **Opportunities and Status of Decentralized Renewables in Sub-Saharan Africa**

*Jacaranda Hall*

The session will offer an interactive panel discussion with key public representatives who will provide expert insights into the advances of the DRE market from selected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, share experiences on the impact that collaboration with local and international partners can deliver and discuss what affordable financing opportunities are available in each country.



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**14:00 – 15:00**

**Accelerating Investments through Integrated Decentralized Electrification Policies & Strategies**

*Ebony Hall*

This discourse will shade light on the available and enabling DRE proliferation policies, strategies and guidelines, and an interactive debate to discuss the design and implementation of policies and regulations needed to radically speed up investments in the DRE energy access sector.

**14:00- 15:00**

**Innovative Business Models for Productive Use of Renewable Energy in Rural Communities**

*Mahogany Hall*

The session will feature presentations from private companies and an interactive debate to discuss best practices from innovative decentralized renewable energy projects and their link to energy nexus sectors for productive use of energy and sustainable socio-economic development at regional and local levels.

**2<sup>ND</sup> AFTERNOON SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**15:00- 16:00**

**Practicable Energy Solutions for Nature and Conservation**

*Speke Ballroom*

Natural Resources underpin economies, world over, through resources like water, food security, sustainable charcoal and wildlife habitat. Nature also serves as a bridge to a clean energy future, providing critical carbon sequestration and storage. How do we capitalize on the need for our natural world to support our planet, while continuing to ensure our forests and agricultural lands provide for people as well? This discussion will explore the range of natural climate solutions and present a menu of policy options and best practices that can be employed to meet the challenges and opportunities at hand.

**15:00- 16:00**

**The EAC Edge: Strengthening Regional Energy Competitiveness**

*Jacaranda Hall*

EAC immense resources are critical in reducing development and deployment of renewable energy and curtailing carbon emissions. This Panel will explore how the EAC can leverage its trade policy to strengthen the competitiveness of the Region's industries while reducing carbon emissions. The discussion will feature insights from industries that have a lower emissions profile than their foreign counterparts, as well as insights from experts from the research and policymaking communities.



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**15:00- 16:00**

**Pitching session - Opportunities for DRE Companies**

*Ebony Hall*

This session will showcase different pitch presentations from funding partners on funds, financial platforms & impact financing initiatives that can help scale decentralized renewables in emerging markets.

**15:00- 16:00**

**The Green Rural Salvage: Building a Thriving Decentralized Renewable Energy Sector in the Face of Energy Geopolitics**

*Mahogany Hall*

Featuring key stakeholders in the decentralized renewable energy sector, this panel will provide participants with insights into the status quo of the decentralized renewable energy sector, as well as green recovery initiatives to make the sector flourish and competitive as we transition our energy systems in the face of global energy geopolitics. Innovative community self-help initiatives such as the Village Entrepreneurship Learning Associations (VELAs). VELA has supported households with ECOCA solar energy-powered cooking stoves, lighting, and phone charging technology.

**3<sup>RD</sup> AFTERNOON SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**16:00 – 17:00**

**Green People's Energy Discourse: Innovative Partnerships for Tracking Off-Grid Renewable Energy Solutions in Rural Communities**

*Speke Ballroom*

This session will focus on the BMZ Initiative “Green People’s Energy for Africa”, and similar initiatives, and private companies. It will also discuss best practices from innovative off-grid projects and how they are linked to energy-related sectors for productive use of energy and sustainable socio-economic development at the local level.

**16:00 – 17:00**

**Lessons And Opportunities from Energy Catalyst on Collaborative Innovation for Driving Energy Access**

*Jacaranda Hall*

The panel will be led by Energy Catalyst-UK, and will bring together stakeholders to discuss the North –South lessons and best practices for companies from the Energy Catalyst UK and their Global South partners, to divulge lessons learned and needs for building collaboration between energy access entrepreneurs.

**16:00 – 17:00**

**Matchmaking Session**

*Ebony Hall*

Matchmaking session will be designed to mobilize investments in renewable energy projects and businesses. The sessions will provide participants with an opportunity to



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connect with potential business partners, public and private investors and policymakers a series of select personal meetings.

**16:00 – 17:00**

**Innovation and Sinking Emissions in Carbon-Intensive Sectors**

*Mahogany Hall*

Globally, governments are investing billions into clean energy research and development. Spending these investments well will be especially important to decarbonize hard-to-electrify industrial, transportation, agricultural, and other sectors. Panelists will discuss what is needed to successfully implement existing Energy programs to incentivize and deploy clean energy and decarbonization innovation at scale, as well as additional technical and policy solutions that can help reduce emissions and grow jobs. As a part of the conversation, discussants will address accounting for differentiating products from mining, green hydrogen, biofuels, and other applications and highlight prospects for Africa's comparative advantage in cleaner decarbonization solutions.

**17:00 – 21:00**

**Cocktail, Networking and Exhibition**

*Exhibition Area*

**Day 3**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2023**

**08:00 – 08:30**

**Arrival and Registration**

*Speke Ballroom*

**1<sup>ST</sup> MORNING SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**08:30 – 09:30**

**Create Your Clean Energy Legacy, and Pass the Baton: Kids Thrive When they have Meaningful Conversations with Caring Adults**

*Speke Ballroom*

The impacts of climate change are detrimental to the health, nutrition, education and the future of children, adolescents and youth, who are the most vulnerable to extreme weather events, toxic chemicals, temperature changes and eco-anxiety. Solutions and just transition require that brave collective commitments to the SDG7 and Paris Agreement are passed through youth leadership, as natural partners and inheritors of the planet. This intergenerational dialogue will aim to cultivate practical solutions and policy actions for clean energy transition to ensure a just and inclusive transition to a low-emission, energy/ climate-resilient future and leading just and fair transition pathways. This session will amplify the specific challenges and the energy activism efforts led by children and adolescents. Panelists will include youth experts, entrepreneurs and solution makers with innovative activities and grassroots initiatives for energy access.





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**08:30 – 09:30**

**Clean Energy Transition: Critical Minerals and Supply Chains**

*Jacaranda Hall*

Clean energy transition exploiting technologies like e-mobility EVs and renewable energies is an extremely minerals-intensive scheme. It is expected that the astonishing demand for minerals will put upward pressure on prices, exacerbating the costs of an energy transition that is already expected to be very expensive. This panel will explore major issues facing domestic mining, inventing substitutes, recycling and reprocessing. These will include national security and the role of innovation in addressing our critical minerals challenges.

**08:30 – 09:30**

**Breaking Red Tape: Eliminating Impediments to Clean Energy**

*Ebony Hall*

Transition to a low-carbon economy will depend profoundly on the development of clean energy infrastructure, such as transmission and energy storage capabilities and environmentally-efficient transportation. Paradoxically, most often, projects that are desperately needed to ensure grid resilience and modernization don't get completed on time, due to bureaucratic and duplicative licensing and permitting requirements. This discourse will explore policy and regulatory barriers that project developers face in breaking ground, as well as efforts that policymakers can do to hasten the process.

**08:30 – 09:30**

**Making Modern Energy Cooking Markets work for the poor**

*Mahogany Hall*

This session will showcase efforts to use innovative geospatial modelling and integrated planning to identify promising markets for emerging modern, affordable cooking solutions, such as electric cooking. This session will showcase the role that integrated energy planning can play in expanding access to clean cooking, using cost effective high-efficient cooking appliances, while exploiting synergies with concurrent least cost electrification models. The session will share lessons from Africa and Asia on making modern cooking markets work for the poor making use of new market opportunities to advance access to modern cooking services.



## **2<sup>ND</sup> MORNING SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

### **Breakout sessions**

**09:30 – 10:30**

#### **Health and Energy as a Service: Solarizing Public Institutions in Developing Countries**

*Speke Ballroom*

The Energy as a Service business model shifts ownership of energy-related assets from the customer to the supplier. It works by turning traditional business models on their head. In a traditional transaction, customers buy products, after which there may be contracts offering the buyers the possibility to purchase warranties and/or additional services. Sustainable cold-chains require a systems approach built on understanding scale, cooling needs and equitable business models. This session will walk through how to model, define and cost the actions needed to facilitate the deployment of cold-chain in equitable, sustainable and resilient ways, using examples and analysis from Africa and Asia. The session will elucidate the opportunities and lessons for the Energy as a service model.

**09:30 – 10:30**

#### **The Decarbonization Challenge: Industry and Mining Sectors**

*Jacaranda Hall*

Decarbonizing high emitting sectors is critical to mitigate global warming. Oil & Gas, Steel and Cement are three of the most carbon-intensive industries, their direct emissions representing more than 1/4 of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. This session will share progress and stimulate further action to decarbonize hard-to-abate yet productive sectors, and identifying new technologies to that end. This session will highlight best practices in the region and encourage escalation of support for initiatives that are leading efforts to decarbonize industry and mining sectors.

**09:30 – 10:30**

#### **Unravelling the Role of Utilities in the Energy Transition**

*Ebony Hall*

Utilities play a critical role in marshaling in the clean energy transition and reducing carbon emissions. This discussion will feature how utilities are making investments in critical energy infrastructure and deploying innovative energy technologies, such as smart grids, new electric transmission and distribution networks, utility-scale energy storage and green hydrogen delivery systems.

**09:30 – 10:30**

#### **Where is the Cash? Tax and Finance Issues in the Energy Industry**

*Mahogany Hall*

This panel will explore issues facing the finance community, including ESG, climate financial regulations, and challenges to funding advanced demonstration projects and export finance. Tax incentives, land and other subsidies will also be debated.



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**10:30 – 11:00**      **Breakfast and Media Briefing**  
*Exhibition Area*

**MID-MORNING SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**11:00 – 12:00**      **Transparency and Regulations: Scaling Mini-grids and Mega-projects**  
*Speke Ballroom*

Emerging and frontier markets face cost and power availability concerns, while also experiencing slow deployment of clean energy at scale. Predictable enabling policy environments for centralized and distributed generation are key to driving investment. This session will sightsee best practices for policy and regulatory frameworks to scale clean energy markets, including subsidy regimes, tendering processes, sight allocation, PPA disclosure standards and concession models for mini-grid development and integration.

**11:00 – 12:00**      **Biodigester in a Circular Bio Economy: Scalability Prospects and Actions**  
*Jacaranda Hall*

During the Africa Biodigester Component (ABC) Knowledge Exchange Event, held at the Speke Resort Munyonyo, in Kampala Uganda, May 2023, the Ministers and high-level representatives from the five ABC implementing countries, as well as the eight member states of the WCA Alliance met to exchange knowledge, experiences and learnings towards the creation of sustainable biodigester markets in Sub-Saharan Africa for improved energy access and promotion of organic fertilizer utilization. The huge potential of the renewable gas sector becomes more apparent year after year, yet the sector still needs relevant legislative support and investments in the coming years to harness its full potential. This session will provide an opportunity to discuss the role of the Sector in the future energy system, assess the capacity of feedstocks to scale the industry, how to accelerate the investment in the biodigester value chain, and identify the missing links in driving the renewable gas system in Africa. Panelists, policy-makers, industry representatives, market experts and researchers active in the implementation of the energy transition and the circular economy, will put particular emphasis on showcasing the scalability of biodigester in the continent.

**11:00 – 12:00**      **Results-based Financing: Transforming Energy Access Markets**  
*Ebony Hall*

Results-based financing (RBF) can catalyze investments and accelerate market development in the distributed renewable energy space, unlocking additional capital and spurring the development of commercially viable and private-sector-driven markets. This session will explore the role and effectiveness of RBF in unlocking, de-risking and leveraging more capital into the sector and recent successes, lessons and challenges.



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**11:00 – 12:00**

**Financing Energy Efficiency in Last Mile and Refugee Communities**

*Mahogany Hall*

Energy efficiency is important for shifting development paths toward lower-carbon economic growth. Particularly in developing countries and transition economies, vast potential for energy savings opportunities remain unrealized even though current financial returns are strong. There is a central disengage between finance and energy efficiency, resulting in underfunded and inadequately financed efficiency efforts. It is important to examine the nature of this dilemma and how it may be overcome in practical and operational terms. This discourse will explore how to bridge the gap between the financing and the public and private sectors at the forefront of delivering the transition towards energy efficiency.

**MID-DAY SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**12:00 – 13:00**

**Transitioning to the Grid of the Future**

*Speke Ballroom*

The grid of the future is consumer-centric, dynamic, smart, flexible, robust, economically viable and interconnected. This session will address the development of business models and pilot projects that show the potential for a win-win-win between utilities, customers, and DRE project developers as we transition to the grid of the future. Power for All will give a Keynote on the Utilities 2.0 pilot, which focused on testing and scaling future grid innovative approaches. The Pilot demonstrated how mini-grid developers, utilities, and appliance distributors could work in tandem, leveraging what each does best, to connect more customers, build power demand, and improve the customer experience. Stakeholders will share similar experiences that will form lessons for the future grid, as we transition.

**12:00 – 13:00**

**Energy Data and Analytics for Actionable Insights**

*Jacaranda Hall*

Theory and practice sometimes clash. And when that happens, theory loses. Every single time. This session will explore the power of energy data and analytical tools for providing actionable insights to stakeholders interested in expanding access to modern energy services. What are the right measurements to capture the co-benefits and impacts of clean cooking? How do we get that data in front of the right people to leverage investment? Panelists will share practical hands-on experiences on using market and open-source dynamic information systems that synthesize geospatial data and visualizes high priority areas for energy access interventions. The session will bring together multiple initiatives currently improving how we measure impact and build data streams for cross-sector knowledge sharing and new financing options. Panelists will be drawn from SE4ALL, WRI, CWP, GEAPP, GIZ and others to discuss affordable digital platforms for energy planning and access.



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**12:00 – 13:00**

**Private Sector Financing for Africa’s Energy Transition**

*Ebony*

This private sector panel discussion will demystify the investment opportunity in Africa’s clean energy market. Speakers will share insights on their current investments across the continent, the challenges that exist and continue to deter investments at scale, and the type of interventions required to unlock investments.

**12:00 – 13:00**

**Reaching the Poor through End-User Subsidies**

*Mahogany*

On the present path, millions of households will be left behind because they can neither afford clean energy access solutions nor be viably served by markets. This session will explore why end-user subsidies are needed to complement existing interventions, which experiences have been made to date, and how they can be taken to scale. The session will also present recent advances in sizing and targeting smart subsidies for enhancing last mile demand growth and affordability.

**13:00- 14:00**

**Exhibition Tour, Media Tour and Lunch**

*Restaurant & Exhibition Area*

**1<sup>ST</sup> AFTERNOON SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**14:00 – 15:00**

**Certification Approaches for Decentralized Renewable Energy Practitioners**

*Speke Ballroom*

Certification of professionals who are able to deliver decentralized renewable energy is part of building a skilled 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. This work also supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG7. This session will offer a deep-dive in the role of national, regional and global certification programmes, and how to use existing approaches to certify practitioners in the sub region.

**14:00 – 15:00**

**Renewable Energy Opportunities in Refugee and Host Communities**

*Jacaranda Hall*

The global community is prioritizing transition to renewable energy. This session will discuss the importance of reducing the carbon footprint of refugee, displacement and host communities. Energy costs, deployment length, and logistic and security support will be topics of discussion, and hold potential for partnerships.



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**14:00 – 15:00 Energy Decentralization Sub-Regional Forum**

*Ebony Hall*

This session will bring together focal persons of the sub-regional forum to deliberate on matters of energy decentralization. The session will have representation of central government, development partners, local government, civil society organization.

**14:00- 15:00 Raising the Capital for a Just and Equitable Clean Energy Transition**

*Mahogany Hall*

To achieve a just and equitable global transition to clean energy, sectoral finance is required - huge investments in renewables, batteries, upgraded grids and low-carbon technologies. This session will address key knowledge gaps in: What are the areas of greatest opportunity in different regions, according to private investors? Where and how to best deploy blended finance to de-risk clean energy investments? And how can financial innovation drive better support to clean energy SMEs in developing economies.

**2<sup>ND</sup> AFTERNOON SESSIONS IN PARALLEL**

**Breakout sessions**

**15:00- 16:00 Expo Highlights**

*Speke Ballroom*

This session will share highlights of the technologies that would have been exhibited and their role in the energy transition journey for Africa.

**15:00- 16:00 We Need Women at All Levels, to Reshape the Energy Conversation in the Last Mile**

*Jacaranda Hall*

Women entrepreneurs in last-mile communities work at the forefront of the energy challenges. Although their needs and rights are often excluded, these women carry the burdens of whole communities. Hear directly from some of these women entrepreneurs to learn how they contribute to energy access and the just energy transition, empowering their communities and advancing gender equality. The session will show real experiences in the energy sector, including charcoal retailers, activists, and policy-makers in Uganda.

**15:00- 16:00 Energy Decentralization: Sub-Regional Forum**

*Ebony Hall*

Planning for local energy needs such distributed energy systems allows the local resources to be used more effectively to cater the energy needs of a community, with better adaptation to the local needs and conditions. Even though decentralized energy system planning at community level has become a topic of great interest in recent times



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with the climate change and energy security concerns, scientific evidence-based methods that supporting the related decision making are still lagging behind. Investment planning for energy source switching or other clean energy initiatives at community level is still managed through an unstructured decision process. This session will bring together focal persons of the sub-regional forum to deliberate on matters of energy decentralization. GIZ has been running a Sub-Regional Energy Forum for enhancing the cooperation framework in Northern Uganda. Lake Victoria Regional Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC), a network organization of local authorities around Lake Victoria, coordinates and strengthens collaborative efforts within the Lake Victoria Basin. LVRLAC is now one of the most dynamic and robust network of grassroots governments closest to the communities and a major developmental actor in the Lake Victoria basin. Both LVRLAC and GIZ Sub-Regional Forum provide lessons on possible enhanced cooperation on energy security and sustainable use of energy. The session will have representation of central government, development partners, local government, and civil society organization.

**15:00- 16:00**

**Youth Dialogue**

*Mahogany Hall*

Young people understand the links between sustainable development and climate justice. They have risen to the forefront as advocates and innovators in bringing sustainable energy solutions to homes, communities and countries. It is unacceptable for governments to continue to build polluting economies of the past by investing in fossil fuels. In unison, young African activists have called governments to advance just and equitable energy transitions that step-up ambitions and accelerate progress. To empower these youth, Youth Go Green is hosting a side event to equip youth with the knowledge and resources needed to amplify and strengthen advocacy efforts for clean and just energy access.

**15:00 – 18:00**

**REC23 Awards & Closing Ceremony**

*Speke Ballroom*

Key Announcements

Final Remarks

**19:00**

**Official Ending of REC23**