



Ministerial Thematic Forum on Enabling SDGs through Inclusive, Just Energy Transitions

on “Women-led rural development through renewable energy”

24 June 2021 at 6:00 – 7:00 AM (NY Time) | 1:00 – 2:00 (Beirut Time)

Please use the Zoom link and passcode below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/92977610550?pwd=RzdJWkNORDdsbHZlL3plc1ZraXhtdz09>

Passcode: 401590

Simultaneous interpretation in English, Arabic, and French

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The implementation of a sustainable energy transition strategy with a focus on social equity and inclusiveness is key to enable the SDGs. The scale-up of affordable small-scale energy technologies, paired with innovative financing, can provide women entrepreneurs working in the design and distribution of modern energy equipment and services with business opportunities. It can also support women-owned businesses and operations, particularly in remote or rural settings. With access to a reliable and affordable source of electricity, women business owners can maintain or extend regular working hours, while at the same time reducing operational costs.

Within the framework of the High-Level Dialogue on Energy 2021 and on the sidelines of the Ministerial Thematic Forum on Enabling SDGs through Inclusive, Just Energy Transitions, The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), in partnership with The International Network on Gender and Sustainable Energy (ENERGIA), The Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNET), and The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), is organizing an online Side Event on “Women-led rural development through renewable energy” on 24 June 2021 at 6:00 – 7:00 AM (NY Time) | 1:00 – 2:00 PM (Beirut Time).

Objective

The side event will convene regional and international partners active in gender empowerment, rural development, and renewable energy (RE) to exchange experiences and lessons learned on the challenges and opportunities facing gender empowerment and rural development and to explore the opportunities and solutions that RE technologies can offer. The side event will also emphasize the importance of complementing RE technologies with adequate financial mechanism and specialized capacity-building activities that will develop and enhance the knowledge and skills of rural populations towards the improvement of their income-generation activities.

The wealth of experiences exchanged will enable the identification of the synergies between the key sectors prevalent in rural areas. They will also lead to the synthesis of various recommendations that target the integration of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy as a central pillar of an inclusive and just energy transition strategy where gender transformative approaches are also integrated to close the gender gaps and empower women through RE.

Agenda

Moderator: Ms. Radia Sedaoui, Chief Energy, Climate Change and Natural Resource Sustainability Cluster, UN ESCWA

- **Welcoming Remarks and Setting the Scene**
- **Interactive Panel (Davos style)**
 - Ms. Silvia Sartori, Women Economic Empowerment Manager, ENERGIA
 - Ms. Irene Giner-Reichl, President, GWNET
 - Ms. Naimishaben Joshi, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and Director of RUDI Multi Trading Company
 - Mr. Khaled bedoui, Chief Executive Officer, KB Consulting, Tunisia
 - Ms. Poonam Sandhu, Financial Sector Analyst and India team lead, National Research Development Corporation (NRDC)
- **Q&A**
- **Wrap-up**