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Regional Approaches to Promote the Uptake of Sustainable Energy Markets, Industries and Innovation in Central America and the Caribbean

Day: September 11th 2017

Time: 15:00 – 16.30

Room: ATZTECA

Description:

The following side event is jointly organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) and the SICA Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SICREEE) under the umbrella of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC). In the side event, selected panellists will exchange views on the added value and priorities of cross-border cooperation in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector in the light of the discussions at the MEXIREC 2017.

In both regions, most countries have introduced ambitious policies and targets to scale up renewable energy and energy efficiency markets, industries and innovation. Both regions have made remarkable achievements. However, in some areas the technical implementation of these commitments is still lacking or has not turned into economies of scale. Sustainable energy solutions continue to face manifold barriers (e.g. technical, policy and regulatory, financial, lack of qualification and certification frameworks, knowledge and data gaps, weak domestic entrepreneurship and innovation).

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Central American Integration System (SICA) have adopted regional sustainable energy and climate policies (e.g. C-SERMS) with the objective to support and better coordinate national and international efforts in the sustainable energy sector. As part of this process, CARICOM and SICA are creating dedicated regional sustainable energy centres. Through regional approaches and methodologies, these centres seek to accelerate progress in the areas of policy and regulation, capacity development, knowledge and data management, awareness raising, as well as investment and business promotion.

The centres can play an important role in setting priorities, contribute to donor harmonisation and coordination, as well as ensuring the sustainability and availability of results and deliverables after project closure. Sub-regional markets are an important requirement to attract foreign investment and to create business and job opportunities for domestic energy entrepreneurs, manufacturing and servicing companies.

Objectives:

In the side event, the panellists will provide an update on the status of the regional sustainable energy centres in the Caribbean and Central America. They will also exchange views on the added value and

priorities of cross-border cooperation in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector in the light of the discussions at the MEXIREC 2017.

Organisers:



Detailed programme:

<p><i>Side Event: Regional approaches to promote the uptake of sustainable energy markets, industries and innovation in the Caribbean and Central America</i> <i>11th September 2017 15:00 to 16:30 Venue: Room capacity: 250</i></p>	
Modarator	Mr. Guillermo Castella Lorenzo, UNIDO Representative in Mexico
Key note (5 min max. each)	H.E. Dr. Eva Hager, Austrian Ambassador in Mexico covering Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua (tbc) Mr. Miguel Ángel Encinas, General Coordinator of the Spanish Development and Cooperation Agency in Mexico (AECID)
Panelists	Mr. Isaac Castillo, Deputy Secretary, National Secretariat of Energy of Panama (SNE), Presidency Pro Tempore of the Central American Integration System (SICA) Mr. Devon Gardner, Director of the Energy Unit of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Mr. Al Binger, Executive Director of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE), Secretary General of SIDS DOCK Ms. Lidia Fromm, Director Executive of the Proyecto de Integración y Desarrollo de Mesoamérica Ms. Christine Lins, Executive Secretary of REN21

Format of the discussion:

- The chair will provide an introduction to the topic and speakers (~10:00 min)
- The chair will give the space for the short key notes (~20 min)
- The chair will facilitate a discussion among the panellists by raising the questions below (~30:00 min)
- The participants will get the opportunity to comment on the panel discussion briefly (~15:00 min)
- The chair will provide technical clarifications if needed (~5 min)

The following questions might be raised by the moderator:

- What is the status of CCREEE and SICREEE and how both centres can contribute to the achievement of SDG-7 on sustainable energy, SDG-9 on industrialisation and SDG-13 on climate change mitigation and adaptation?
- Please explain key issues and priority areas for the respective region in the renewable energy sector and highlight how cross-border cooperation can contribute? Which priority has the area of renewable energy based electric mobility in your region?
- Please explain key issues and priority areas for the respective region in the energy efficiency sector and highlight how cross-border cooperation can contribute? Which importance has the area of energy management standards for industry and SMEs in your region?
- How the regional centres could assist in the execution of international programs funded by the Green Climate Fund in partnership with international organizations and banks?
- In which sustainable energy technology areas the Central American and Caribbean region can learn from each other (e.g. geothermal, energy efficient appliances, building codes, energy management standards)?
- How the regional centres can contribute to the follow-up on the MEXIREC?

Speakers:

Moderator



Mr. Guillermo Castella Lorenzo, Director and UNIDO Representative in Mexico

The regional office of UNIDO in Mexico DF, also covers Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, Bahamas, Virgin Islands (UK), Belize, Central America Region, Caribbean Region, Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Montserrat, Antilles (Netherlands), Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Island, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Key Notes



Ms. Eva Hager, Austrian Ambassador in Mexico covering Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua

Panellists



Mr. Isaac Castillo, Deputy Secretary, National Secretariat on Energy of Panama (SNE), Presidency Pro Tempore of SICA

Master's Degree in Energy Economics, Université de Grenoble, France (1982) and Electronic Engineer, University of Padova, Italy (1973). He has more than 35 years of experience in the energy sector in Panama: currently as the Deputy Secretary of Energy; before, he was the General Manager of the Electric Transmission Company S.A.; Chief of the Wholesale Market of the Regulatory Entity of Public Services and others. He has participated in the process of electrical interconnection with Central America (SIEPAC) and with Colombia. Consultant in energy matters of the private sector and different technical cooperation agencies such as the United Nations, the World Bank, OLADE and other bilateral agencies in several Latin American, Caribbean and African countries



Mr. Al Binger, Executive Director CCREEE

Dr. Al Binger currently serves as the Director Executive of the CCREEE, with office in Barbados. Formerly, he was the Energy Science Advisor for the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), and Science and Technical Cooperation Advisor to SIDS DOCK initiative of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). He is also a representative of the AOSIS on the Technology Executive Committee of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Dr. Al Binger is a research scientist with almost 30 years' experience and training in diverse scientific areas. From 1997-2005, he was Professor and Director for the University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development (UWICED). He was Director of the Global Environment Division to the Rockefeller foundation.



Ms. Lidia Fromm, Director Executive of Project Mesoamerica

Recognized specialist on sustainable development, with academic training at Master's and PhD level in education. Executive Director of the Mesoamerica Project since 2014. She has previously served as Deputy Minister of Social Policy in Honduras and as Advisor for the World Bank, Canada Cooperation, GIZ, KfW, USAID in that country. She is an international lecturer, researcher and author of several books and articles on education, international cooperation and social policies.



Mr. Devon Gardner, Head of the CARICOM Energy Unit

Mr. Devon Gardner heads the CARICOM Energy Unit since September 2014. Before he worked as consultant for Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and other energy think tanks in the Caribbean. He was closely involved in the creation of the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE).

Mr. Miguel Ángel Encinas, General Coordinator of the Spanish Development and Cooperation Agency in Mexico (AECID)



Ms. Christine Lins, Executive Secretary of REN21

Christine Lins was appointed as Executive Secretary of REN21, the Renewable Energy Policy Network of the 21st Century, in July 2011. REN21 is a global public-private multi-stakeholder network on renewable energy regrouping international organizations, governments, industry associations, science and academia as well as NGOs with its Secretariat based at UN Environment in Paris/France. Between 2001 and 2011, Ms. Lins served as Secretary General of the European Renewable Energy Council. Previously, she worked in a regional energy agency in Austria promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Ms. Lins holds a Master's degree in international economics and applied languages and has more than 20 years of working experience in the sustainable energy sector.