

# GETTING IT RIGHT: SEIZING THE MOMENTUM OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION TO BUILD A BETTER ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

## BETD SIDE EVENT

18 MARCH, 14:00-17:30  
VKU FORUM, BERLIN

## CONCEPT NOTE

### CONTEXT

REN21 is the largest global community connecting governments, international organisations, industry associations, civil society, and science/academia to facilitate knowledge exchange, dialogue, and joint action toward a fair and equitable transition to renewable energy.

Established in 2004 as an outcome of the International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn, REN21 has been a global pioneer in bringing renewables to the forefront of leaders and decision-makers. In 2024, REN21 celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, an opportunity to commemorate two decades of trusted knowledge, dialogue, and communication with its community of over 4,000 multistakeholder players and more than 100 member organisations.

REN21 will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March with a series of activities on the sidelines of the [Berlin Energy Transition Dialogue \(BETD\)](#), supported by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK). As part of the BETD's official programme, REN21 and BMZ are co-organising a side event that will convene diverse global players to go beyond the usual discussions and prompt key questions around the future of the energy transition.

### SIDE EVENT

#### Background

There is a driving need for the energy transition - from climate, development and energy security perspectives.

Politically, there is a strong mobilisation around a global renewable energy target after COP28, a historic opportunity to anchor renewable energy in climate negotiations. At the same time, locally and nationally, there is still pushback on renewables for reasons linked to societal acceptance, sustainability, siting, and misinformation.

The energy transition is more than a fuel switch. Shifting to renewables without leaving anyone behind is about building a new economy, developing a new industry, and creating a society that offers a better life for its citizens. It's about putting renewables at the heart of societal debate, highlighting local value creation and what they can bring to local economies. These transformations require new frameworks and rules, involving new players, developing new narratives, and shaping the societal dialogue, globally, regionally, and nationally.

While the transition needs to happen quickly, what matters is not what we do, but how we do it. A fair, equitable energy transition will not happen without a multistakeholder dialogue process. This is fundamental to building a common ground, ensuring that all the necessary voices are at the table and their perspectives are heard.

## Session Description

The session, titled “Getting It Right: Seizing the momentum of the energy transition to build a better economy and society” is co-organised by BMZ and REN21. It will focus on how to develop a robust and inclusive economy with renewables, the importance of creating a safe space to ask difficult questions, and demonstrating how a global multi-stakeholder dialogue can build the broader support needed for the energy transition to renewables.

Speakers are from government, inter-governmental organisations, industry, civil society, and science and academia. The programme begins with an opening plenary followed by two parallel dialogues and a closing lightning talk.

## Participants

The event will welcome members of the REN21 network and historic supporters of REN21, including REN21's [official members](#) and key partners. Leading figures in the sector from all stakeholder groups, as well as renewable energy pioneers –both individuals and organisations– will have a voice in the discussions.

## Logistics

The event will take place at VKU Forum, Berlin - Invalidenstraße 91, 10115 Berlin, Germany.

## Event Programme

13:30	<b>Speakers arrive at VKU Forum. REN21 team will greet speakers and accompany them to Room I</b>	
14:00-14:45	<p><b>Opening (Room I)</b>  <b>Getting It Right: Seizing the momentum of the energy transition to build a better economy and society</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rana Adib, <b>REN21</b></li> <li>Boris Stein von Kamienski, <b>German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Framing Speeches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rabia Ferroukhi, <b>International Network for Energy Transition Think Tanks</b></li> <li>Dean Bhebhe Bhekumuzi, <b>Power Shift Africa</b></li> </ul>	
14:45-15:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
15:00-16:40	<b>Parallel Dialogues</b>	
	<p><b>Dialogue 1 (Room I)</b>  <b>Imagining the New Economy: Building up local economic and industrial activities around renewables</b></p> <p>Renewable energy has the potential to stimulate local economies and build value chains. It also ensures reliable energy for economic activities across all sectors. Prioritising renewable development in economic strategies is crucial. With examples from the demand and supply sectors, as well as country case studies, this dialogue will discuss local economic, industrial and trade activities centred on renewables to ensure local value creation.</p>	<p><b>Dialogue 2 (Room III)</b>  <b>Winning Hearts and Minds: Framing the shift to renewables</b></p> <p>Building societal support for renewables demands an innovative mindset and exploring diverse perspectives outside the traditional renewable energy ecosystem to uncover blind spots. This session will include how effective messages and narratives can build societal support for renewables through policy, storytelling, communication, partnerships and the inclusion of diverse voices to amplify messages and overcome misinformation about renewables.</p>
15:00-15:05	<b>Scene-setting: Rana Adib, REN21</b>	<b>Scene-setting: William Brent, Husk Power Systems</b>
15:05-15:20	<p><b>Speed Interview</b>  <b>What Does Building an Economy Around Renewables Mean from Supply and Demand Perspectives?</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce Douglas, <b>Global Renewables Alliance</b></li> <li>Sam Kimmins, <b>RE100</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Rana Adib</b></p>	<p><b>Lightning Talk</b>  <b>Is Communication Enough to Win Hearts and Minds?</b></p> <p><b>Speaker:</b>  Ronni Gurwicz, <b>Co-author and Host of 'The World is Storytelling'</b></p> <p>Sprint Q&amp;A (5 mins)</p>

15:20-16:15	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>Moving from a Fossil-fuels-based Economy to a Renewables-based Economy - Country transformation pathways</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paolo Frankl, <b>International Energy Agency</b></li> <li>Gloria Magombo, <b>Government of Zimbabwe</b></li> <li>Mika Obayashi, <b>Renewable Energy Institute</b></li> <li>Marisol Oropeza, <b>Intersolar Mexico</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Rana Adib</p>	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>Winning Hearts and Minds: Framing the shift to renewables</i></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sara Aagesen, Secretary of State for Energy, <b>Government of Spain</b> (tbc)</li> <li>Liliana N. Proskuryakova, <b>Research Laboratory for Science and Technology Studies</b></li> <li>Thomas Nowak, <b>European Heat Pump Association</b></li> <li>Maryke Van Staden, <b>ICLEI</b></li> <li>Andrea Wainer, <b>REN21</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator:</b> William Brent</p>
16:15-16:35	Participant Discussion	Participant Discussion
16:35-16:40	Closing Remarks	Closing Remarks
<b>16:40-17:00</b> <i>Coffee Break</i>		
<b>17:00-17:30</b>	<p><b>Closing Remarks (Room I)</b> <i>Bridging Economies and Societies</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rana Adib, <b>REN21</b></li> <li>William Brent, <b>Husk Power Systems</b></li> <li>Rabia Ferroukhi, <b>International Network for Energy Transition Think Tanks</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Lightning Talk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kanika Chawla, <b>SEforALL</b></li> </ul>	
<b>17:30</b> <i>Family Picture</i>		

## Registration

The side event is open to the public. Participants can register for the session on [this link](#). The full list of BETD side events can be found [here](#).