



ENERGY-CLIMATE DIALOGUE EVENT

Advancing the Energy Transition in Western Balkans and Eastern Europe countries through enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC2)

6 May 2021

The Paris Agreement heralds a new era of climate action through actively involving countries around the globe while taking into account their specific circumstances, priorities, responsibilities and respective capabilities. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) form the basis for climate action to be undertaken towards the overall objective of limiting global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius. Countries are encouraged to continuously raise their climate ambitions and revise their NDCs every five years. In that regard, a revision round is underway for submitting enhanced NDCs prior to the upcoming COP 26 in Glasgow.

Emissions from the energy sector currently account for around two-thirds of global greenhouse gas emissions. IRENA estimates that by 2050 the accelerated deployment of renewables and the implementation of energy efficiency strategies can potentially achieve 90% of the required emission reduction. Thus, ratcheting up efforts to decarbonise the global energy system is vital to meet the climate mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement.

With more than half of their electricity produced by old and inefficient thermal power plants burning solid fossil fuels, Contracting Parties (CPs) of the Energy Community will have to take decisive steps for moving away from coal-based electricity production and subsidies. In the framework of its Southeast Europe regional initiative, IRENA has conducted numerous studies that identify the largely untapped cost-competitive renewable energy potential of the region and provided its technical and analytical support to policy makers and investors.

On their path towards the energy transition, CPs have already committed to climate neutrality through the Sofia Declaration on the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans. The Energy Community Ministerial Council reinforced these commitments in December 2020 by tasking the Secretariat, in cooperation with the European Commission, to develop a decarbonization roadmap for 2030 and beyond. More importantly, the development of ambitious and comprehensive NDC2s and National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) plays a crucial role for Southeast Europe to successfully contribute to the EU Green Deal objectives and the increased collective efforts to address the global challenges of climate change.

IRENA, in partnership with the Energy Community Secretariat and UK COP 26 Presidency, is hosting a Conference on “**Advancing the Energy Transition in Western Balkans and Eastern Europe countries through enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC2)**” as a forum

for discussion on the raised ambition of the national climate pledges in the region, and their successful implementation through the enhanced energy component of the NDCs.

Objective

This virtual event aims to encourage all governments of the region towards more ambitious climate action driven by energy transition. The first part of the conference will explore key drivers behind the NDC enhancement measures undertaken by countries across the region and provide a better understanding of the process followed in elaborating their NDCs, including potential benefits and pitfalls. The second session will give stakeholders the opportunity to engage in discussions about the challenges and opportunities in the process of decarbonisation and transformation of the energy sector.

Draft Programme

6 May 2021 - Online		
10:00 - 10:30 CET	Welcome remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Janet Rogan, Regional Ambassador, COP 26 UK Presidency • Francesco La Camera, Director-General, IRENA • Janez Kopac, Director, Energy Community Secretariat • Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary UNFCCC, (tbc) • European Commission (tbc)
<u>Panel Discussion 1:</u> This session will give participants the opportunity to exchange national experiences and views related to NDC planning and implementation, including other linked planning processes and certain financial aspects		
10:30 – 11:40 CET	Opportunities and challenges for the enhancement of NDCs in South East Europe	<p><u>Presentation:</u> Gurbuz Gonul, Director, Country Engagement and Partnership IRENA</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Irina Lazzerini, Sustainable Energy Expert, Energy Community Secretariat</p> <p><u>Panellists:</u></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maia Tskhvaradze, Head of Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia • Romeo Bertolini, Deputy Director, Head of Bonn office, NDC Partnership • Natasa Markovska, Professor and Senior Researcher, Research Center for Energy and Sustainable Development, North Macedonia • Danijela Cabarkapa, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, Montenegro • Laura Altinger, Regional Team Leader for Nature, Climate and Energy in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNDP
<p>Panel Discussion 2: In this session, the discussion will be focused on NDC implementation in the energy sector as a key driver of emission reductions. Special attention will be given to end-use sectors and new technologies and solutions applicable to the region as well as the socio-economic aspects of the transition.</p>		
<p>11:40 – 12:30 CET</p>	<p>Achieving the NDC targets through energy sector transformation</p>	<p>Moderator: Elizabeth Press, Director, Planning and Programme Support</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iryna Stavchuk, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources, Ukraine (tbc) • Vesselina Haralampieva, Associate Director and Senior Counsel, EBRD • Viktor Berishaj, Energy Policy Coordinator for South East Europe, CAN Europe

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ilka Starrost (Head of GIZ Capacity Development for Climate Policy – Phase III project)• Fabian Wigand, Associate Director Energy, Sustainability and Infrastructure, Guidehouse• Moldova representative (tbc)
<p style="text-align: center;">Webinar Closing Remarks Mr. Binu Partan, Head of Regions unit, IRENA</p>		