Concept Note

COP28 Side Event at the Korea Pavilion

Fast-tracking the energy transition through green hydrogen production

5:00PM-6:30PM, 5 December 2023, Expo City, Dubai, UAE – Blue Zone

Venue: 'Opportunity' District, Building OM01

This side event will focus on methods to fast-track a transition to green hydrogen for decarbonisation and net zero goals. It will discuss the importance of a science-policy-society interface to accelerate production, trade, standards, and partnerships for the transition to green hydrogen.

A high-level dialogue will discuss the importance of global and national policy leadership for a green hydrogen transition to enable national ecosystems and a hydrogen economy. A technical dialogue will then discuss advanced hydrogen-related technologies and standards for true "Green Hydrogen (GH2)". The event provides a platform to share diverse perspectives from policy, science, and civil society to accelerate a GH2 transition.

The UN Office for Sustainable Development under the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs has provided policy support to member states on the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy for over ten years. As new technologies emerge, this side event aims to strengthen policy support for UN member states to accelerate a net zero future, while achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and energy for all. This event is supported by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea.

Organizers: UN Office for Sustainable Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the Green Hydrogen Organisation

Agenda

Moderator: Ms. Sara Castro Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UN Office for Sustainable Development, Division for SDGs, UN DESA

Opening Remarks (7 minutes)

- Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of Office, UNOSD, UN DESA
- Mr. Jong Soo Yoon, Chair, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Korea

High-level Policy Dialogue (25-30 minutes)

- Mr. Erik Solheim, Chair of the Green Hydrogen Development Plan, Green Hydrogen Organisation
- Ms. Chantal Line Carpentier, Head, Trade, Environment, Climate Change, and Sustainable Development, UNCTAD
- Ms. Nancy Laibuni, Associate Member, Council of Economic Advisors, Office of the President, Kenya

Q&A

Technical presentations (30 minutes)

- Ms. Ines Marques, Director of the Green Hydrogen Development Plan, Green Hydrogen Organisation
- Mr. Duk Woo Jun, Circular Economy Lead, Global Green Growth Institute
- Mr. Bradford Willis, Green Hydrogen Lead, Energy Sector, Climate Champions, UNFCCC

Q&A
Guiding questions

Welcome – we thank Ministry of environment for their support for this event and the UN Office for Sustainable Development under UN DESA

Event title: Fast-tracking the energy transition through green hydrogen production

Wide scale electrification played in Korea in the 1970s played a central role as a basis for Korea's export led growth

SDG 7 aims to Ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable and modern energy for all – yet 675 million people are still without access. Emissions increased last year.

The UN Secretary-General has called for a tripling of renewables capacity, a doubling of energy efficiency, and universal access to clean power, all by 2030.

BARRIERS - Green hydrogen can be an essential piece of the puzzle to realize these goals, but what are the current barriers to fast tracking a green hydrogen transition in developed and developing countries?

UNCTAD ROLE (Investments, standards, agreements, policy legal models) Over 90% of hydrogen investments today still rely on fossil fuels for production - How can UNCTAD respond to the needs of developing countries to fast track a green hydrogen transition?

KENYA - There have been many discussions at COP and hydrogen economy regarding capturing the value of resources within country vs exporting and on the importance of a just transition. What role can green hydrogen play in ensuring more inclusive growthKenya?

What are Kenya's long-term plans for green hydrogen – do you see it playing a role in national energy demand too?

S-CURVE - The 2023 Global Sustainable Development report, highlights that transitions follow an S-curve, do you see green hydrogen having an accelerated transition to scale-up in Africa and how does this compare to its growth in Latin America or Asia for example?

GLOBAL and KENYA - What essential next steps do you see necessary to scale up green hydrogen's role for a net zero economy?

Any concluding remarks?

We will hear about the technical role of green hydrogen development plans as well as bio hydrogen to decarbonize energy intensive industries such as fertilizers, iron and steel, and petrochemicals – indeed there have already been some announcements COP between Chile and Germany on these topics. So let's move on to our technical presentations here today starting with….