



Women in Energy and Climate Workshop

Context

The International Vienna Energy and Climate Forum is a solutions platform to accelerate low-emission, climate-resilient development around the world. The Forum highlights the steps required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, helping to forge an inclusive pathway that leaves no one behind. The Forum is co-organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA) and the Government of Austria. The solutions platform facilitates multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and inter-disciplinary dialogue to advance sustainable energy development while promoting inclusiveness and the empowerment of women and youth.

The Youth Solutions Days, designed by and for youth, in partnership with Sustainable Energy for All (SEforAll), WU Vienna and the City of Vienna, brings together young people to discuss, learn and build capacity in an action-packed three-day agenda. Most of all, it meaningfully engages youth in the Forum.

Name of workshop

Title of the Workshop: Women Changemakers leading Climate Action and the Sustainable Energy Transition in LDCs and beyond

Date: Monday, 30.10.2023

Time: 14:30-16:30

Location: Seminar Room D1.1.074

Link: xxx: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Yzg4YmU5NjEtZGVkNC00ZGE4LTg2YmItMGi5YzZiMDhmODly%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%220504f721-d451-402b-b884-381428559e39%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%2203e0f428-4225-4651-9b7c-1334c95ad5ad%22%7d

Besprechungs-ID: 396 529 428 504

Passcode: dmPYLi





Background

In an attempt to reduce climate change impacts and keep to the agreed upon Paris Agreements, the world has started to shift investments away from harmful fossil fuel energy systems and towards climate-friendly renewable alternatives. Climate action and an accelerated sustainable energy transition that facilitates the achievement of net zero by 2050 will require the skills and commitment of millions of people who are currently still in school or university. Therefore, stakeholders in the climate action and energy transition space should make a concerted effort to get young people all around the world interested in and enthusiastic about careers in climate and energy.

Although women are amongst the most affected by climate change due to their traditional roles and responsibilities - especially those in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) - they are important leaders in climate action, they remain severely underrepresented in decision making related to climate and also in the renewable energy sector where they hold just 32% of jobs. Therefore, it is particularly important to reach and empower young women, reducing barriers for them to enter, remain and advance in these sectors. This is crucial because the climate movement and the energy transition must be able to draw from the widest talent pool possible, and studies have shown that companies with more gender-diverse teams achieve better results.

This youth day event, held at the WU, will highlight job opportunities for young women in the climate and energy sector, discuss the importance of role models, highlight networks such as GWNET, the GN-SEC Gender and Youth Focal Point Network, and alliances such as the Gender and Energy Compact, and seeks to show entry points for young girls to the sectors, as well as increase the enthusiasm of attendees for careers in climate action and the sustainable energy transition.

Objectives

This workshop has the following **objectives**:

- Present to young women the range of possible career paths in the climate and energy sector, providing role models and success stories from a variety of contexts, including academia, the private sector, government and international organisations.
- Facilitate discussions between these role models and young attendees on the barriers to gender equality in the climate and energy sector, any concerns young people may have about joining the sector and how these can be alleviated.





INTERNATIONAL VIENNA
ENERGY & CLIMATE
FORUM 2023

IVECF YOUTH SOLUTIONS DAYS

- Facilitate discussions between practitioners and young attendees on strategies to attract more young women to the sector and how these could be improved.
- Facilitate networking between young attendees and role models and potential employers.



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Progress by innovation



WU
WIRTSCHAFTS
UNIVERSITÄT
WIEN VIENNA
UNIVERSITY OF
ECONOMICS
AND BUSINESS



**City of
Vienna**



Agenda

- Moderator: Cathy Li, YOUNGO (confirmed)
- 14:30-14:35 Welcome by Katharina Proestler, UNIDO
- 14:35-14:45 Keynote: The position of women in the renewable energy and climate labour market & skills needs for the energy transition and for climate action – by Davina Ngei, GWNET
- 14:45 - 14:55 Keynote: Representative from the GN-SEC Gender and Youth Focal point network (tbc) or a youth rep, e.g. SDG7YC, or YOUNGO, if possible from an LDC
 - Prakritri Koirala, Nepal (tbc - waiting for her visa)
- 14:55-15:30 A series of 5-minute interventions by women role models from academia, the private sector, government, international organisations; Why did you choose climate action or energy? [What are some highlights of your career journey?](#) What advice do you have for young women [looking to join the sector in the audience?](#) What energy career options exist for non-engineers?
 - Private sector representative, e.g.
 - Michael Leonhardt, Head of Hydrogen Department, Wien Energie (tbc)
 - Waltraud Schmid, Head of Department, Urban Innovation Vienna GmbH (tbc)
 - [Judith Wiese](#), Chief People and Sustainability Officer, Member of Managing Board, Siemens AG (tbc)
 - government representative:
 - Stella Funsani Gama, Climate Change Negotiator, Ministry of Forestry, Malawi (confirmed), "Stella Gama" <stellafunsani@gmail.com>
 - female engineer
 - Natalia Weber (PhD), Mentoring Programme Manager GWNET, Brazil (confirmed)
 - female entrepreneur (e.g. from GCIP/ PFAN)
 - Sandiswa Qayi, Managing Director, AET Africa (confirmed), sqayi@aetafrica.co.za <sqayi@aetafrica.co.za>
 - [Women from an iO](#)
 - [kanika Chawla](#), Chief of Staff, SEforAll
 - Youth Rep; young climate activist, e.g.



IVECF YOUTH SOLUTIONS DAYS

■ Paola Carvajal, SDG7YC (confirmed)

- 15:30-15:55 Open discussion
 - Q&A from participants to panelists
 - Why are you (not) considering a career in climate action or energy? Do you have positive or negative perceptions of the energy and climate sector?
 - What is important for you when deciding on your career?
 - Do you have any concerns about working in a male-dominated sector?
 - Did you already face any challenges or barriers trying to join the sector?
 - What support would you like to have as you join the sector?
- 15:55-16:00 Wrap up and identification of 'key message' to bring to the IVECF
 - 1 - 3 key messages coming from the discussions, to be shared with SEforALL after the meeting
- 16:00-16:30 Networking

Setup of room: Standard University room with Theatre seating (can be rearranged with support from student volunteers.) There is an adjacent study room which can be used for networking but this can be confirmed on the day. **Catering:** It is not possible to get catering in university lecture rooms, but WU can offer to ask student volunteers to deliver coffee thermos & a few pastries.

Recommended Reading and Preparatory Materials

- [Europe's Energy Transition: Women's Power in Solving the Labour Bottleneck](#)
- [Co-benefits Knowledge Commons Employment: Renewable Energy, Employment Opportunities and Skill Requirements](#)
- [Energy Transition Role Models: Inspiring the Next Generation of Women Entrepreneurs \(Brochure\)](#)
- [Energy Transition Role Models: Inspiring the Next Generation of Women Entrepreneurs \(Videos\)](#)



IVECF YOUTH SOLUTIONS DAYS

- [Women for Sustainable Energy – Strategies to Foster Women’s Talent for Transformational Change](#)
- [Women’s Participation in the Renewable Energy Workforce in Sub-Saharan Africa](#)
- [Hiring for Equity in Clean Energy](#)
- [Solar PV: A Gender Perspective](#)
- [Wind Energy: A Gender Perspective](#)

Expected Outcomes

Ultimately, the workshop seeks to increase the awareness of and enthusiasm for career paths in the climate and energy sector among young women attendees, while allowing practitioners working towards gender equality in the sectors to have direct discussions about their strategies and activities with their target group.



Organization Name:	Global Women’s Network for the Energy Transition
Social media handles:	Twitter: @GlobalWomensNet LinkedIn: GWNET: Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition
Focal Point(s) name(s) and email(s):	Davina Ngei davina.ngei@globalwomennet.org
Phone: <i>not mandatory</i>	n/a

Organization Name:	UNIDO
Social media handles:	
Focal Point(s) name(s) and email(s):	Katharina Pröstler
Phone: <i>not mandatory</i>	n/a

Organization Name:	LDC Group on Climate Change
Social media handles:	Twitter: https://twitter.com/LDCChairUNFCCC
Focal Point(s) name(s) and email(s):	Yared Abera, yared2012@gmail.com
Phone: <i>not mandatory</i>	n/a





Speakers

Name and Photo	Role/ Position Company/ Partner E-Mail Social Media:	Short bio (50 words)
<p>Stella Funsani Gama</p>  <p>Stella Funsani Gama</p>	<p><i>Director of Forestry, Ministry of Natural Resources, and Climate Change, Malawi</i> stellafunsani@gmail.com</p>	<p>Stella Gama is a forest resources management specialist with a strong passion enhancing women's effective participation in climate and environment diplomacy. She is a UNFCCC negotiator for Malawi and Least Developing Countries Group, and she has served as member and vice chairperson of the Technology Executive Committee and as Rapporteur for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice at the UNFCCC.</p>
<p>Natalia Weber</p> 	<p><i>Project Manager Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition</i> natalia.weber@globalwomennet.org LinkedIn</p>	<p>Natália is a Project Manager at GWNENET with a particular focus on coordinating GWNENET's Mentoring Programme Portfolio. She is an Energy Engineer passionate about creating a more sustainable world. Natália has a Ph.D. in Energy Planning with expertise in long-duration storage solutions for adapting and mitigating climate change impact. Previously, she</p>




IVECF YOUTH SOLUTIONS DAYS


		worked as a researcher developing scenarios for the energy transition.
<p>Sandiswa Qayi</p> 	<p>Managing Director, AET Africa sqayi@aetafrica.co.za</p>	<p><i>Sandiswa Qayi</i> is the Managing Director and co-owner at AET AFRICA, a Cleantech company based in South Africa and the 2016 GCIP South Africa youth-led team winner. Sandiswa is the member of the Global Advisory Board of the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP).</p>
<p>Paola Flores</p> 	<p>Global Support Team member, SDG 7 Youth Constituency paofloresc98@gmail.com LinkedIn Instagram</p>	<p>Paola is an Industrial Engineering passionate about renewable energy, science, startups, and community projects. Paola co-founded Magnífica Warmi, a project that worked with Indigenous women on environmental and climate change issues. She is part of the SDG 7 Youth Constituency as a Global Support Team member for the inclusion of indigenous youth voices in the energy sector and a member of the Youth Advisory Group at UNIDO.</p>
<p>Prakriti Koirala</p>	<p>Researcher, Freelancer, CLIMates Nepal https://www.linkedin.com/in/prakritikoirala/</p>	<p>Prakriti is a researcher from Nepal holding a master's degree from Tribhuvan University in Environmental Science, with a specialisation in climate change and disaster risk management. For several years, she has been actively engaging in climate activism through different national</p>



IVECF YOUTH SOLUTIONS DAYS

		youth organisations and has co-authored several publications, including a book called Project Bajho, a study of climate change legislation and policies in South Asian countries.
---	--	---

Facilitators

Name and Photo	Role/ Position Company/ Partner E-Mail Social Media:	Short bio (50 words)
<p>Davina Ngei</p> 	<p>Communications Manager, Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition davina.ngei@globalwomennet.org LinkedIn</p>	<p>Davina is the Communications Manager at GWNEN where she works closely with the management to support advocacy, networking, and mentorship projects. She holds a degree in Computer Science, and is heavily involved in waste and climate pollution activities in East Africa, with a focus on innovation, enterprise, data, policy and community.</p>
<p>Cathy Yitong Li</p>	<p>Youth Advisor, UNIDO</p>	<p>Cathy Yitong Li has been focusing on multilateral climate processes and civil society advocacy since she was</p>



INTERNATIONAL VIENNA
ENERGY & CLIMATE
FORUM 2023

IVECF YOUTH SOLUTIONS DAYS



E-Mail:
cathyleeyt@gmail.com
Social Media:
www.linkedin.com/in/cathy-lyt/

a teenager, besides serving advisory and governance roles across 7 UN bodies and various international organisations. By profession, Cathy is the Nature Programme Manager of the High-Level Climate Champions Team.



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION
Progress by innovation



City of
Vienna