



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



**RCREEE**  
Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency  
المركز الإقليمي للطاقة المتجددة وكفاءة الطاقة



**MEFED 2022**  
MENA Europe Future Energy Dialogue

## MENA Europe Future Energy Dialogue (MEFED) Side Event - Regional Integration Possibilities

15:45-17:00, Thursday 9 June 2022

Venue: King Hussein Bin Talal Convention Centre, Dead Sea Road, Jordan

Registration: <https://mena-europe-energy.org/about-mefed/registration/>

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### Background and Objectives:

Since the adoption of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, countries in the Arab region have been taking strides to progress on meeting these targets as well as those for net-zero by 2050, albeit at varying speeds and levels of success. Tracking and monitoring this progress is essential for more effective policy making, in identifying obstacles, assessing gaps and in adopting best practices, all of which are necessary for achieving the SDGs growth and in preserving our planet for future generations.

SDG7 – ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all – holds a unique position in the nexus between the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, for which the Arab region has so far lagged in its progress. Access to electricity stands at around 90%, helped in part, by the historic importance of oil and gas revenues in accelerating economic growth through the financing of infrastructural projects. But the region is challenged by supply chain disruptions, economic downturn, and in some countries, conflict and instability, undermining efforts. The region will need to build on its current progress on SDG7 and adopt a nexus approach in identifying interlinkages and synergies for achieving co-benefits across several sectors and across borders. With rising energy prices, the risks on the most vulnerable are heightened, and the looming timeline for change is drawing short.

Countries in the Arab region must adopt an integrated approach when it comes to planning, implementation and governance arrangements, as well as the need to identify and leverage the possibilities for regional collaboration across entities to address gaps in finance, technology and in sharing best practices. Transforming the extractives sector into an engine for sustainable development can support a just energy transition for all. The UN secretary general in his call for actions instructed the regional commissions to play an important role in fostering regional and global coordination towards supporting carbon management technology innovations.

Without the right levels of financing, supportive action and knowledge management, the Arab

region will not be able to adopt the technologies needed to significantly scale-up renewable energy, conserve energy, or increase productivity, and above all, achieve universal access. Cooperative feat will be critical for mobilizing resources (human and capital), and by combining previously fragmented actions, the region can better pool these efforts to achieve more effective and targeted results pertaining to the SDGs and those under the Paris Agreement.

### Tentative Agenda:

In this context the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) is organizing a side-event within the framework of the MENA Europe Future Energy Dialogue (MEFED), in collaboration with the League of Arab States (LAS), the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) and Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie Mediterranean (OME) on regional integration possibilities.

The side event will provide an opportunity to present the progress made by the Arab region in SDG7 and the role that energy plays in enabling other SDGs. The presentation will highlight patterns of consumption and its impact on the overall climate, the environment, on regional economic development and vulnerable groups, and therefore prompting the need for enabling a just and inclusive energy transition towards sustainable energy systems, by leveraging the possibilities for regional cooperation.

The panel discussion is invited to address the following:

- Provide some context and insight into progress, challenges and emerging opportunities arising in the delivery of SDG7.
- Mobilising commitments and actions to accelerate the implementation of SDG7 and support of the Climate Actions.
- Sharing best practices and lessons learned on existing synergies, collaborations and initiatives
- Leveraging the extractive industries to position the Arab region in taking a leading role in international forums to drive carbon neutrality both regionally and globally.
- Suggesting ideas for prioritising regional cooperation and coordination to support achievement of SDG7.
- Proposing priority actions to accelerate progress on SDG7 in medium- and long-term perspectives.

### Tentative Programme

Time	Programme
<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Ms. Radia Sedaoui</b> , Chief Energy, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA
15:45 — 15:50	Welcoming Remarks <b>Ms. Jamila Matar</b> , Director Energy Department, League of Arab States
15:50 — 16:10	<b>Presentation: SDG7: Tracking progress in the Arab region</b>

**Ms. Radia Sedaoui**, Chief Energy, Climate Change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster, ESCWA

**16:10 — 16:55 Regional Panel dialogue**

**Ms. Jamila Matar**, Director Energy Department, League of Arab States

**Mr. Jauad El Kharraz**, Executive Director, RECREEE

**Ms. Emanuela Menichetti**, Director of the Electricity and Renewable Energy Division, OME

**Mr. Zoheir Hamedi**, MENA Programme Officer, IRENA

**Ms. Radia Sedaoui**, Chief Energy, UNESCWA

**16:55 — 17:00 Closing Remarks**

*Participants: The event is open to all participants to the MEFED 2022 held in The Dead Sea, Jordan.*