FORUM: Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

QUESTION OF: Measures to Expand Energy Access While Meeting Climate Goals in Sub-Saharan Africa

MAIN SUBMITTED BY: Nepal

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Nigeria, Republic of South Africa, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Norway, Canada, Lebanon, Ecuador

Recognizing that approximately 600 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa still have limited access to electricity, which makes up 85% of the global population without electricity,

Acknowledging that unreliable electricity supply can negatively affect access to healthcare, education, and employment, as well as food security and economic development for women and children,

Deeply concerned that the continued use of traditional biomass fuels such as firewood and charcoal contributes to air pollution, health issues, deforestation, and greenhouse gas emissions,

Realizing the financial difficulties that Sub-Saharan African countries face, such as high borrowing costs, currency depreciation, limited private investment, and energy deals in foreign currencies that raise public debt,

Emphasizing the need to expand access to renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, to provide a more sustainable economic while reducing carbon emissions,

Welcoming international initiatives such as Mission 300 led by the World Bank Group and African Development Bank, the European Union Global Gateway Strategy, and the Green Investment Program for Africa, which support electricity access and investment in energy infrastructure.

1. Encourages cooperation between SAPP (South African Power Pool) and EAPP (East African Power Pool) to improve electricity access by connecting regional power grids, through:
    a) supporting existing Zambia-Tanzania Interconnector project (ZTIP) to connect the two regional power pools by:
        i. providing financial and technical assistance from IMF (International Monetary Fund) or another international associations for the development and construction of the interconnector,
        ii. encouraging cooperation between participating countries to improve electricity distribution across regional borders,
    b) establishing common technical standards and regulations for cross-border electricity trading by:
        i. making electricity trading requirements consistent between participating countries,

ii. encouraging to build agreements between SAPP and EAPP on the electricity sharing to improve regional energy reliability,
iii. establishing the Association of SouthEast Africa Power Standardization, head by existing SAPP and EAPP member states to support the formation of fair and sustainable power standard,

c) encouraging countries with surplus renewable energy to supply neighboring countries experiencing electricity shortages by:
i. promoting the regional trade of surplus hydropower and geothermal electricity,
ii. establishing agreements that ensure fair electricity pricing and reliable energy distribution;

2. Recommends that Member States expand access to renewable energy in rural and remote communities where extending the national electricity grid is difficult or costly by:
a) identifying communities with limited or no access to the national electricity grid through:
i. conducting annual assessments of electricity access in rural and remote areas of Sub-Saharan African countries,
ii. prioritizing communities with limited access to essential public services, including schools and healthcare facilities,
b) supporting the development of solar mini-grids and household solar systems by:
i. installing small-scale solar power facilities capable of supplying electricity to multiple households simultaneously,
ii. providing solar panels and battery storage systems priory to households and small businesses,
c) gradually converting existing diesel-powered electricity facilities into solar-diesel hybrid systems by:
i. integrating solar panels and necessary control systems into existing diesel power generation facilities,
ii. providing technical training support from organizations such as World Bank Group for local technicians on the operation and maintenance of hybrid systems,
d) respecting each country's autonomy in determining its national energy mix by:
i. supporting the use of suitable renewable energy sources, including solar, wind, hydropower, and geothermal energy,
ii. allowing Member States to incorporate other suitable energy sources according to their national circumstances;

3. Calls upon the World Bank Group, African Development Bank Group, and other international financial institutions to increase financial assistance for renewable energy infrastructure by:
a) providing affordable financial assistance to countries with limited financial resources by:
i. offering grants and low-interest loans for renewable energy infrastructure projects,
ii. prioritizing countries with a high risk of falling into debt when allocating financial assistance,

b) establishing local-currency lending mechanisms to reduce financial risks caused by currency depreciation by:
    i. providing loans in the local currencies of countries where energy project operate,
    ii. supporting local banks and financial institution providing long-term loans to renewable energy companies;

4. Urges Member States and development partners to make electricity more affordable and accessible to low-income households and essential public facilities through:
    a) providing targeted and time-limited financial assistance for vulnerable households to access Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) solar systems by:
        i. allowing households to make smaller payments through mobile money systems,
        ii. adjusting financial assistance according to household income and geographical location,
    b) prioritizing electricity provision to essential public facilities, including schools, healthcare facilities, and water pumps, by:
        i. installing solar energy systems to ensure reliable electricity for essential public services,
        ii. supporting public facilities as anchor customers to encourage the development of nearby mini-grid projects,
    c) supporting access to cleaner cooking technologies according to the needs and circumstances of individual countries by:
        i. encouraging the adoption of electric stoves, biogas, bioethanol, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), and improved biomass stoves,
        ii. supporting the distribution of suitable clean cooking technologies to households currently dependent on traditional biomass fuels,
    d) introducing affordable payment systems for clean cooking technologies by:
        i. encouraging Pay-As-You-Cook systems that allow households to purchase smaller amounts of cooking fuel,
        ii. supporting flexible payment arrangements for low-income households;

5. Invites Member States to improve existing electricity infrastructure, increase energy efficiency, and strengthen resilience against disasters related with climate by:
    a) reducing electricity transmission and distribution losses through:
        i. identifying areas with high electricity transmission and distribution losses,
        ii. gradually replacing aging transmission wires and transformers,
    b) introducing modern technologies to improve electricity monitoring and management by:
        i. installing smart meters to monitor electricity consumption and identify abnormal energy losses,
        ii. using collected electricity data to improve the management and distribution of energy,
    c) improving energy efficiency in public facilities and local communities by:
        i. replacing outdated electrical equipment with energy-efficient lighting and appliances,

ii. organizing public awareness campaigns and providing households and businesses with guidance on energy conservation,

d) strengthening electricity infrastructure in areas vulnerable to floods and extreme weather conditions by:

i. conducting regular risk assessments and reinforcing vulnerable substations and transmission lines,

ii. establishing emergency repair teams to minimize electricity shortages caused by climate-related disasters;

6. Further encourages Member States, international organizations, and private energy companies to strengthen local technical knowledge and community participation in renewable energy projects by:

a) establishing training programs for local technicians, engineers, and business owners, with particular attention to women and young people, through:

i. cooperating with school, universities, and technical institutions to provide practical training,

ii. organizing workshops on the installation, operation, and maintenance of renewable energy systems,

b) encouraging local employment and participation in renewable energy projects by:

i. prioritizing the recruitment and training of local workers for energy infrastructure projects,

ii. encouraging local businesses to participate in the installation and maintenance of renewable energy facilities,

c) ensuring community protection during the development of energy infrastructure by:

i. conducting fair consultations with local communities before implementing energy projects,

ii. respecting local land and water rights when selecting locations for energy facilities,

d) protecting the environment during the implementation of renewable energy projects by:

i. preventing unnecessary damage to forests, rivers, and surrounding ecosystems,

ii. encouraging environmentally responsible construction and maintenance practices;

7. Requests international organizations, development partners, and national governments to improve the accountability and coordination of energy investments by:

a) introducing payment-by-results funding schemes in which financial support is provided after electricity access has been independently verified through:

i. using smart meters and mobile payment records to confirm that households and businesses receive electricity,

ii. using satellite imagery and other independent verification methods to monitor project performance,

b) providing additional financial incentives for energy projects serving vulnerable communities by:

   i. prioritizing projects that provide electricity to remote and underserved areas,
   ii. offering additional payments for verified electricity access among low-income households and essential public facilities,

c) encouraging African governments to voluntarily implement National Energy Compacts to improve coordination of energy investments by:
   i. aligning international funding with national energy priorities and development plans,
   ii. encouraging international partners to follow national plans to prevent duplication of projects,

d) Requesting the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to cooperate with relevant agencies responsible for monitoring Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) to publish annual progress reports covering:
   i. improvements in electricity access and clean cooking across Sub-Saharan Africa,
   ii. progress in electricity provision to essential public facilities and local-currency financing.