FORUM: Economic and Social Council
QUESTION OF: Measures to Expand Energy Access While Meeting Climate Goals in Sub-Saharan Africa
MAIN SUBMITTER: Delegate of Australia
CO-SUBMITTERS: Algeria, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, Lebanon, Mozambique, Mexico, Norway, Russia

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL,

Appalled by the fact that 600 million people in Africa do not have access to electricity,

Concerned for the one billion people in Sub-Saharan Africa who do not have access to safe cooking fuel and instead rely on charcoal, wood, and other polluting fuels,

Deeply concerned that the continued use of fossil fuels contributes to climate change and environmental damage, while many African countries still face energy shortages,

Disturbed that some countries produce more electricity than they need, and yet for some countries, the access rate can dip down to 5.4%

Shocked by the fact that Africa's potential wind generating energy alone is enough to satisfy the continents demands for electricity 250 times over,

Emphasizing that foreign currency loans creates financial risk for African governments,

1. Calls for an expansion of renewable energy to the communities in sub-Saharan Africa that lack any means of getting electricity or with no sustainable way generate clean energy with the help of United Nations Office for Project Service (UNOPS) and taking advantage of the naturally occurring electricity potential through ways such as but not limited to:
    a. supplying the remote rural villages with enough electricity for essential needs through means such as:
        i. giving them with a mini grid to power the community so they can independently have access electricity without being affected by other electricity grids,
        ii. supplying extremely remote or extra independent communities with Solar Home Systems (SHS) with enough power to electrify individual houses,
    b. creating massive solar farms to harness the high solar radiation and connecting it with the national electricity grid to provide the country more power,
    c. building wind turbines for potential wind farms for the national electricity grid in strategic areas with prevailing winds and the highest potential,
    d. tapping into the earth's geothermal energy to reach geothermal potential in especially strategic places with the highest potential in areas such as:
        i. The East African Rift,

        ii. Granitic regions,
    e. using bioenergy in the short term to produce 42%-77% fewer green house gasses than the use of the even more harmful fossil fuels which currently account for 74.34% of fuel used to generate electricity,
    f. exploring Africa's vast form of potential electricity generated in the form of hydroelectric power through ways such as:
        i. using the understanding marine technology and its benefits to build tidal power plants to turn the ocean's kinetic energy into electricity in the eastern coast of Africa where the best potential sites are,
        ii. improving and modernizing the already existing plants to continue using them with better value instead of building completely new ones;

2. Replacing dangerous cooking fuels with safer and cleaner alternatives to protect the environment healthy with the reduction of excess smoke, to help the people avoid serious health problems that arise from cooking over open fire, through ways such as but not limited to:
    a. asking governments to support the use of cleaner cooking technologies to replace cooking over open fires such as:
        i. Koko Networks, which uses bioethanol to fuel it,
        ii. Burn Stove, which can use electricity and liquid petroleum gas(LPG)as well as fuelwood and coal, can reduce 81% of the emissions due to the efficient designing,
    b. prioritizing the use of Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) for cooking purposes through ways such as:
        i. reducing excise tax,
        ii. subsidizing the price of LPG for cooking especially for low-income households,
        iii. rationing the LPG to avoid long shortages by limiting sales
        iv. restricting the use of LPG to commercial users to prioritize the consumers in low-income households, schools, or hospitals;

3. Strengthening electricity networks and cooperation between Sub-Saharan African member states to achieve mutual benefits since countries can share their electricity and pool their resources together so that each country can balance their own large electricity load over a shared network through ways including but not excluding:
    a. helping the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP) achieve its goal to increase the accessibility of electricity and improve the relationships between countries through means such as:
        i. requiring countries with a higher electricity generating potential to work together with countries that need more electricity,
        ii. asking the World Bank to help with financing interconnectors between different country's electricity grids,
    b. supporting the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) through means such as:
        i. providing some financial relief,
        ii. encouraging private electricity companies to build more electricity power plants in Africa,

c. calls upon the the UNOPS to help tackle the political barriers that prevent neighbouring countries from sharing their electricity through means such as reminding the public of all the mutual benefits to both countries,
d. reducing the need for building new fossil fuel power stations through means such as:
    i. Cross-border power trade (CBPT),
    ii. building transmission lines between energy generation plants;

4. Encourages investors in African projects to lower the high borrowing cost and make clean energy affordable through international financing through ways including but not limited to:
    a) suggesting low interest loans or simple interest loans that is set for a longer duration of time to give the poorer countries a longer time to pay it back without exponentially high interest at the end,
    b) giving grants to businesses with great potential or to those seeking financial assistance by asking for help from the:
        i. European Union's Global Gateway Strategy,
        ii. Green Investment Program for Africa (GIPA),
    c) incentivising businesses to remain in their home countries by:
        iii. giving them subsidies to continue working for the good of their home country,
        iv. lowering taxes,
    b. setting up guaranteed investment fund(GIF) to offer to investors who are looking to invest their money in low risk situations,
    c. making affordable electricity for poor households while still attracting private companies to build and maintain energy systems through ways such as:
        i. encouraging individual households to buy their own individual electricity gauge meters to help them measure their electricity usage,
        ii. targeting the countries' poorest households to give subsidies to,
        iii. installing prepaid meters or pay-as-you-go meters to give poor households the option to pay in small increments rather than the whole sum in one go,
    d. welcoming Public-Private partnership(PPP) to encourage businesses to come, which would help the economy,
5. Urges Member States to balance energy development with climate goals through ways such as but not limited to:
    a. promoting environmentally friendly energy policies through ways such as:
        i. encouraging the use of energy-efficient technologies,
        ii. Supporting the development of sustainable energy infrastructure,
    b. strengthening international cooperation through ways such as:
        i. sharing renewable energy technology between countries,
        ii. Monitoring progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7);

6. Prioritising electricity usage for the essential services in countries until they can make more power plants to make sure that they have a reliable electricity in ways such as but not limited to:
    a. making sure that the electricity can get to hospitals, schools, and other essential services by:
        i. building a SHS for schools and hospitals,

ii. connecting it to a national grid or mini grid,
iii. conduct regular inspections of the powerlines to make sure that the power needs to be repaired,

b. keeping a large backup storage for energy in case of a power outage or sabotage in ways such as:
i. confirming that batteries are being kept and are in perfect working order,
ii. considers using a small electricity generator that runs on gas or other fossil fuels;

7. Supports using renewable resources to create jobs and to strengthen local communities and consulting the UNCDF for help and advice including but not excluding:
a. keeping the electricity reliable and minimize all the power outages through ways such as:
i. asking for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide assistance to jumpstart the business of using renewable resources to generate electricity,
ii. asking the World Bank to also help with funding more electricity generators so that more electricity is available to the countries' disposal,
b. helping farmers increase their income by reducing waste with solar power through means such as:
i. creating solar powered irrigation systems to reduce physical labor,
ii. refrigerating foods to allow the crops to keep longer,
iii. using solar powered food processing machines,
c. creating jobs through installing, operating, and maintaining these renewable energy system,
d. ensuring that local businesses and workers benefit rather than relying heavily on foreign contractors through means such as:
i. countering the effects of brain drain by asking the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization(UNESCO) and the World Bank to help with funding universities to provide local businesses and workers with skilled contractors,
ii. incentivizing many people with different specialized skills to spread out in the country to provide temporary assistance to local businesses when they need it;

8. Recommends that each country with renewable energy projects also find effective ways to install, maintain, and repair them as well as recycle and reuse broken down ones through ways such as but not limited to:
a. giving the local people more job opportunities to help with the installation of the renewable energy projects through ways such as
i. offering low-cost short term training sessions by qualified engineers,
ii. introduce new employment rule which is Trusted Employer Scheme (TES),
iii. ensuring consumer protection laws stipulate stringent penalties for anti-competition schemes or practices that promote the importation of fossil fuels over the production of renewable energy,
b. partnering with international agencies to help train African universities, businesses, and technical schools to become renewable energy experts so that more Africans can learn how to:

i. innovate solutions,
ii. use their tools to the best advantage,
iii. access technology transfers.