

CONFERENCE REPORT & OUTCOME DOCUMENT

High-Level Multi-Stakeholder Renewable Energy and Clean Cooking Conference for the Mano River Union

18–19 November 2019

Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel
Freetown, Sierra Leone



EVENT PARTNERS



SUMMARY

Sierra Leone hosted the first **Mano River Union Renewable Energy and Clean Cooking Conference** under the theme “**Growing the Sub-Regional Energy Market**”.

The high-level multi-stakeholder conference, including energy ministers, parliamentarians, policymakers, academics, development experts and representatives from the private sector and civil society working in the renewable energy sector.

The conference concluded with a declaration to exhibit true leadership and increase efforts to explore joint measures to develop the renewable energy sector and clean cooking solutions in the Mano River Union.

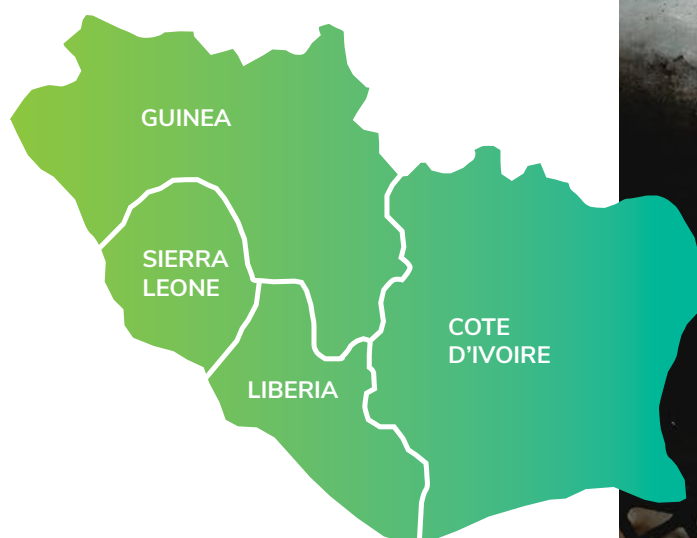




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FOREWORD



” The government of His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio is working hard to ensure his vision to provide universal access to affordable and clean energy is translated into action. I am privileged to lead these efforts and welcome all partners and donors to this historic conference. The purpose of the conference is for us to learn from each other and share our experiences. There is much to be proud of and celebrate in the Mano River Union. As a Ministry, we are delighted to welcome not only high-ranking officials, but also a great variety of representatives from governments in the sub-region, the donor and development communities, civil society and the business communities. Many thanks to our convening partners and sponsors for jointly conceiving and planning the conference.

Hon. Alhaji Kanja I. Sesay
Minister of Energy, Sierra Leone



” My vision is to have this gathering as a rotational dialog on the theme in the sub-region regularly. Energy issues are critical for Sierra Leone's socio-economic development, the MRU countries and Sub-Saharan Africa in general. We are happy that we can host the first MRU energy conference here in Freetown and we look forward to working with our partners as we showcase the potential of our countries and work collaboratively to advance solutions needed to bring our people out of energy poverty. This was the first joint ministerial and parliamentary conference to discuss Decentralized Renewable Energy (DRE) and Clean Cooking issues in the MRU. It was unique in the sense that clean cooking was accorded the same degree of importance as DRE. Happening on the sidelines was also the first meeting in Africa of the new Global Renewables Congress chaired by Hon. Bärbel Höhn and the World Future Council. The conference took a nexus and energy ecosystems approach so legislators from the four countries were chosen from the standing committees of Energy, Agriculture and Health to deliberate on energy as an enabler of service delivery of other sectors. As key convener, The Energy Nexus Network (TENN) was unveiled with a presentation of its vision and mission along with its training facility under construction in Freetown.

Hon. Kande K. Yumkella
Founder & Chairman, The Energy Nexus Network-TENN; Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General and CEO of Sustainable Energy for All Initiative (SE4ALL)



” This high-level multi-stakeholder conference for the Mano River Union clearly demonstrated that access to renewable energy and clean cooking solutions is a key foundation for inclusive growth and development. The inclusion of women on issues relating to energy access and clean cooking solutions is very crucial. Legislators have a significant role to play not only for the people in the constituencies they represent, but in driving the energy transition and overall development agenda in their countries, which is also linked with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and combating climate change. Concrete actions must be taken and approved at the highest political level on renewable energy and clean cooking to combat climate change, address deforestation and protect the lives of women and children from indoor air pollution.

Hon. Bärbel Höhn
Chair of the Global Renewables Congress and BMZ Special Representative for Energy in Africa; Former Member of Parliament German Bundestag 2005 – 2017; Former State Minister of the Environment, Agriculture and Planning of North Rhine-Westphalia 1995-2005



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Energy is paramount for development, which is why Power Africa is driving the energy goal on access to provide sustainable energy particularly to countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Power Africa has helped over 120 power projects in Africa reach financial close, but none of those projects are in Sierra Leone. This needs to change. Flying over the country on my way here and seeing the clustered nature of villages, I think this is the right place for mini grids to improve electricity access. Two issues for universal access, that is, political will and a conducive investment climate. Power Africa has 56 advisors in more than 20 countries.

Mr. Andrew M. Herscowitz Esq.

Coordinator for USIAD Power Africa



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We are all on the same platform that this is a very useful conference. We need to plan after highlighting the challenges and potential, but we need to bring on board other sectors such as finance and industry. On clean cooking, we need to focus especially on the gender dimension, health and agriculture and involve the people. If we do not, we shall continue to see persistent deforestation. What we can take away is that governments cannot do this alone. We need the private sector and learn especially from the good examples already in the sub-region. The political will must be there with predictable policies and regulatory framework. The MRU will ensure we have working visits as we aim at the sub-regional market of 50 million people.

Amb. Medina A. Wesseh Esq.

Secretary General, MRU Secretariat



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Energy drives development. The beginning of successful programmes should start with investing in energy, and they should aim at sustainable energy solutions. 63 billion USD are required to achieve universal access in Africa if we are to catch up with the rest of the world in the next 20 years. The role of legislators is significant, and it is important that an ECOWAS parliamentary committee on energy is established. On clean cooking, action plans for financing both entrepreneurs and end users are needed so entrepreneurs could produce and sell more. ECREEE is working with member states of the MRU and we are planning an ECOWAS regional meeting on DRE and clean cooking in Freetown next year. We are here to work for you, and we are here with you.

Mr. Mahama Kappiah

Executive Director, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECEEE)



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Achieving sustainable clean cooking is one of the great challenges of our time. Besides health concerns, this source of cooking fuel puts significant strain on already stressed forest resources, and it is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs). We cannot look away for longer. It is time that the transition to sustainable clean cooking is put in motion. We should look at alternatives that provide long term sustainable solutions rather than quick intermediate fixes such as improved cook stoves. For instance, generating electricity from renewable sources for the purpose of cooking has several opportunities. But solutions should be based on the interest of the users, especially women. Food habits and traditions must be considered to address barriers and make use of emerging opportunities.

Mr. Eco Matser

Senior Program Manager for Strategic Partnership, Green and Inclusive Energy, Hivos



From left to right:

- Hon. Alhagi Kanja I. Sesay, Minister of Energy of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- Amb. Maria E. Brewer, US Ambassador to Sierra Leone
- H.E. Brigadier Rtd. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- Mr. Andrew M. Herscovitz Esq, Coordinator for USAID Power Africa
- Hon Bärbel Höhn, Chair of the Global Renewables Congress and BMZ Special Representative for Energy in Africa. Former Member of Parliament of German Bundestag. Former State Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Planning of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Hon. Dr. Kandeh K. Yumkella, Founder and Chairman of The Energy Nexus Network. Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, and CEO for Sustainable Energy for ALL

BRIEF HISTORY OF MANO RIVER UNION (MRU)



Mano River Union (MRU) is an Intergovernmental Institution comprising of four countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. The Organization aims to strengthen the capacity of Member States **to integrate their economies and coordinate development programs** in the areas of peace building, as a prerequisite to any development, trade promotion, development of industry, energy, agriculture, natural resources, transport and telecommunications, monetary and financial affairs; in short, all aspects of economic and social life of the Member States.

As a regional integration organization, MRU was created on October 3rd, 1973 by the Malema Declaration, signed by President William Tolbert Junior of the Republic of Liberia and President Dr. Siaka Stevens of the Republic of Sierra Leone and enlarged by the accession of the Republic of Guinea and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, respectively on October 25th, 1980 and May 15th, 2008. In May 2008, the Heads of State and Government of the Union took a decision to revive the Union. The MRU Secretariat was accordingly mandated by the May Summit to **pursue the revival, growth, socio-economic development and integration of the sub region within the framework of four pillars**, namely institutional revitalization and restructuring with focus on the Union Secretariat and public sector of Member States; peace and security; economic development and regional integration; and social development. In recent years, the MRU Secretariat has made the regional interconnection – CLSG – a priority project. Further commitments, strategies and planning documents will be integrated into this document through technical assistance and direct engagement of the MRU Secretariat, based in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

THE CONFERENCE

Sierra Leone hosted the first ever Mano River Union Renewable Energy and Clean Cooking Conference on 18–19 November 2019 at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown. The high-level multi-stakeholder conference for the Mano River Union brought together around 200 participants, mostly from the sub-region, including energy ministers, parliamentarians and high-level dignitaries, policymakers, academics, experts and representatives from the private sector and civil society under the theme “Growing the Sub-Regional Energy Market”. The conference was co-organized by The Energy Nexus Network (TENN) in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Sierra Leone with support from plethora of partners, namely the Global Renewables Congress, MRU Secretariat, ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), USAID Power Africa/West Africa Energy Program, World Future Council, Tony Blair Institute (TBI), Hivos, and ENERGIA.

Prominent speakers during the two-day conference included His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio, Minister Alhaji Kanja Sesay, Hon. Dr. Kande K. Yumkella, United States Ambassador Maria E. Brewer; German Ambassador Horst Gruner; Ambassador and Mano River Union Secretary-General, Medina A Wesseh; Minister of Energy – Liberia, Hon. G. Murray; Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Renewable Energy, Hon. Aboudramane Cissé – Cote d'Ivoire; Minister of Energy – Guinea, Hon. Dr. Cheikh Talib Sylla; Power Africa Coordinator, Andrew Herscovitz; Chair of the Global Renewables Congress and Former MP of the German Bundestag and BMZ Special Representative for Energy in Africa, Hon. Bärbel Höhn; Executive Director for ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy (ECREEE); World Future Council Advisor, Ing. Stefan Schurig; Hivos Global Coordinator Climate, Energy



Closing Ceremony (from left to right):

- **Hon. Dr. Kande K. Yumkella**, Founder and Chairman of The Energy Nexus Network. Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, and CEO for Sustainable Energy for ALL
- **Dr. Alfred Tunde Taylor**, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- **Ms. Find Koroma**, Vice President of the Economic Community of West Africa States-ECOWAS
- **Hon Bärbel Höhn**, Chair of the Global Renewables Congress and BMZ Special Representative for Energy in Africa. Former Member of Parliament of German Bundestag. Former State Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Planning of North Rhine-Westphalia
- **Ms. Adaju Ufere**, Deputy Chief of Party of USAID West Africa Power Program-WEAP

and Development, Eco Matser; World Bank Energy Specialist, Rahul Srinivasan; Lead Designer – SELCO Foundation, Huda Jaffer; Power Africa Senior Policy Officer, Benjamin Laag; Tony Blair Institute (TBI) for Global Change, Energy Access, Policy Advisor Tessa Lee; TBI Power Africa Regional Adviser, Sergio Portatadino; PowerGen Energy, Joseph Harrington; UNOPS Country Manager, Nick Gardner; GIZ-MRU Hartlieb Euler; Ministry of Energy Adviser, Dr. Patrick Tarawalli; REASL President, Kofie Macauley.

On the first day, His Excellency President Julius Maada Bio delivered the keynote address at the plenary session and officially declared the conference open. Immediately following the president's keynote address and official opening, there was a ministerial roundtable that was chaired by Hon. Minister of Energy Alhaji Kanja Sesay. Energy ministers in the sub-region were invited to discuss key successes, new opportunities in their respective sectors. The ministers intervened with presentations followed by Q&A regarding progress across the 5 principal themes: energy access, regional trade, energy-economic development/energy-health nexus; clean cooking; and utilities. The ministers also presented priority projects, critical issues on the need to secure baseload power and generation planning.



From left:
Hon. Alhagi Kanja I. Sesay, Minister of
Energy of the Republic of Sierra Leone,
and H.E. Brigadier Rtd. Julius Maada Bio,
President of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Similarly undertaken in plenary was a session addressing the sub-regional integration efforts for energy development in the MRU. This session was chaired by Hon. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella and Prof. Kelleh Gbawuru-Mansaray, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone. The following themes were discussed: power sector integration and the role of regulators; the MRU road map for energy market integration and what it will take to have a sustainable energy ecosystem that works for the energy poor. At the same time, there was an overview of progress towards, and opportunities for driving the sub-regional energy markets: off-grid and regional energy trade. The themes discussed included: Access to finance through the Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP), including debt financing for ECOWAS and the Sahel for scaling up proliferation of standalone home solar market; Progress towards quality assurance frameworks and regional harmonization; Analysis of benefits of sub-regional energy trading and key regional projects (transmission and distribution); The Market Delivery Unit – accelerating the West African Power Pool (WAPP) – Market Integration; Private Sector Operators of Mini-Grids.

Conference participants were divided into five parallel breakout sessions to further explore the themes of the conference with in-depth discussions on the following:

- **Levelling Off-Grid/On-Grid Subsidy: “Taking a more Bold and Innovative Approach”** | Hon. G. Murray, MoE-Liberia /Anita, USAID Off-Grid Lead/ Pradeep, Konexa-CEO/Aminata ACE/TAF
- **Mano River Union: Review of projects for sub-regional energy trade (including CLSG) and estimating overall market readiness** | Mr. Sergio Portatadino, TBI Power Africa Regional Adviser / Hon. Aboudramane Cissé, Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Renewable Energy-CI
- **Promoting Productive Use of Energy to increase project viability** | Mr. Nick Gardner-UNOPS-Country Manager/ Mr. Kofie Macauley, President of the REASL / Mr. Hartlieb Euler, GIZ-MRU
- **The role of Parliament in Renewable Energy Development – regulatory environment, financial incentives, target setting etc.** | Hon. Bärbel Höhn, Chair of the Global Renewables Congress / Hon. Keikura C. Vandy, Chair Energy Select Committee Parliament of Sierra Leone
- **Joint planning towards a priority sub-regional project and developing a pipeline of bankable projects for MRU** | Hon. Dr. Cheick Taliby Sylla, MoE-Guinea/ Mr. Jalloh, MRU Energy Officer

The conference provided a high-level platform for in-depth discussion on **specific technical areas and financing options of relevance for the uptake of renewable energy and clean cooking solutions**, while identifying concrete opportunities for regional cooperation on projects as well as through knowledge and data sharing. Emphasis was placed on enhancing the capabilities of national and sub-regional legislators, who have a critical role to play in scaling up renewable energy and MRU sub-regional integration.



From left:
Amb. Maria E. Brewer, US Ambassador to Sierra Leone, and **Amb. Medina A. Wesseh Esq.**, Secretary General of the Mano River Union-MRU Secretariat

Following the breakout session, the conference participants were reconvened in plenary for a session that was chaired by Hon. Dr. Kandeh Yumkella to discuss the following:

- **Standards and Taxation for Off-Grid** | Ms. Tessa Lee, TBI Energy Access Policy Advisor
- **The role of energy utilities: how to solve the challenges of financial sustainability, management and losses** | Managing Director EDSA
- **The Role of Natural Gas in MRU Energy Trade, LNG terminals** | Rep. Power Africa
- **Access to Finance and locally embedded financing models for Renewable Energy** | Rep. of Power Africa / Mr. Benjamin Laag, Senior Policy Officer, Energy, Infrastructure, Raw Materials at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- **Modelling Energy Transition Roadmaps** | Mr. Stefan Schurig, SG of Foundations-20

The conference resumed on the second and final day with reporting from the breakout sessions on the first day, followed by the presentation in reading of the Conference Declaration/Outcome Document which highlighted the principal conclusions and commitments by the conference participants. That session – **Building an MRU Coalition of Leader for Change around Clean Cooking** – was jointly chaired by Hon. Dr. Elfred Tunder Taylor, Deputy Minister of Energy, Sierra Leone and Hon. Bärbel Höhn under the following themes:

- Reviewing relevant outcomes of technical sessions.
- Commitments from Legislators and Ministers.
- Roadmap for Energy Market Integration – what's needed to drive forward.

Finally, there was a session on **Energy and Health Nexus** covering the following themes:

- **Powering Health Service Delivery** | Mr. Rahul Srinivasan, Energy Specialist at the World Bank.
- **Beyond Fire to Clean Cooking Solutions** | Eco Matser, Coordinator Climate, Energy and Development.

Site visits were organized to allow the participants to see mini grid installations in the outskirts of Freetown. The site visits were led by the ministry of Energy, Sierra Leone in partnership with developers and distributors – for example, mini-grid developers seeking to address the affordability challenge through productive use applications in rural areas in Sierra Leone.

Other highlights of the conference included:

1. First meeting in Africa of the Global Renewables Congress chaired by Hon. Bärbel Höhn and the World Future Council;
2. A presentation on The Energy Nexus Network (TENN), a regional energy ecosystem hub, chaired by Hon. Dr Kandeh Yumkella;
3. A presentation on the Renewable Energy Association of Sierra Leone (REASL) by Mr. Kofie Macauley (REASL, President);
4. A presentation of the Africa Clean Energy-Technical Assistance Facility (ACE-TAF) Sierra Leone Kick Off, moderated by Ms. Aminata Dumbuya, Country Manager ACE-TAF;
5. Networking dinner hosted by the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Sierra Leone

Ministers on Progress and Challenges in the MRU

Energy Access is a challenge across the Mano River Union (MRU) Countries, with access rates as low as 10% in Liberia and 16% in Sierra Leone. In each of the four countries, however, Governments are advancing targeted policies to address key market barriers and incentivise a private sector driven approach to energy access and scale up of decentralised renewable energy solutions. While this High-Level Roadmap cannot provide a complete coverage and analysis of Energy Access progress and challenges across the MRU, a high-level presentation is provided below, upon which a future MRU Integration Roadmap can be built.



LIBERIA

The CLSG line is the biggest electricity facility, it is a cross border project. It established a Rural RE Agency coordinating energy project; it developed an energy strategy masterplan and the Liberian Energy Regulatory Commission (LERC); it completed the Mount Coffin hydro dam (80 MW, but is presently only tapping 22 MW). Liberia's opportunities lie in abundant hydro resources, solar potential, biomass and wind potential. Public-Private partnership is good, but there is limited human resource capacity. There are tremendous opportunities and we look for investors to come and partner with us. Abundant hydropower potential sharing six major basins with huge hydro potential. There is high solar, biomass and wind potential; opportunity for PP is there. The political will is there. Challenges in Liberia include access to finance, as well as capacity challenges.



SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone and Liberia share common challenges on human capacity and finance. However, Sierra Leone has made significant progress on boosting energy access through mini grids. Sierra Leone is focusing on rural areas through mini grids. Likely to see a quantum leap in a very few areas. Sierra Leone should also look at developing its transmission and distribution network as this is affecting industrial development. With funding support from the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the UK Government has supported the development of a Rural Renewable Electrification Project (RREP). The first of its kind in scale and scope in Sierra Leone and the wider region, RREP is being implemented by the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and aims to deliver 5MW of off-grid power, electrifying 94 communities across four regions in Sierra Leone. The program has also furthered policy and regulatory support to the sector. In addition, a new USTDA-funded Feasibility Study will provide the blueprints for 45 additional grids – 40 village mini-grids and 5 commercial and industrial grids. If developed, some 400,000 customers would benefit from clean energy (over 7.5MW) from over 150 mini-grids by 2022.



Plenary Session of the Conference with cross-cutting participants



GUINEA

The energy mix is very rich in Guinea with some emphasis on renewable energy, especially hydropower generation. Liberia and Sierra Leone can learn from Guinea's experience in attracting private sector investment for hydropower generation. 23% of rivers in West Africa pass through Guinea. Guinea has the potential to supply clean energy from hydropower generation in the sub-region. But Guinea faces a lot of problems with investment. The new Government has put some emphasis on energy investments prioritizing energy access. The revenue from mining is mostly used for energy access which has contributed 240MW to the existing 200 MW bringing the country close to 500 MW. The country is welcoming private sector investors. But support from donors is still very important, e.g. the 100 MW and 50 MW USAID supported power generation is very prominent on the ground. The network of 220 kV will be extended to the region – Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Mali. And these will be supported from hydro. Mali and Guinea have started, and funding is set. When this is complete, Guinea will be able to supply many villages and the regulatory agency for rural electrification will take over operations. The country is also in the process of signing power purchasing agreements with many partners in the region.



COTE D'IVOIRE

Cote d'Ivoire has high potential in terms of hydropower generation. The biggest hydro plant has 250 MW capacity. The Government's vision is to increase power generation from renewable energy sources. A study was undertaken to assess all the biomass in the country to support electricity for clean cooking – 6 million tonnes for electricity production. More of this is expected from cocoa farming to support electricity generation. Solar energy in the region of Kerioku is also being explored. The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) has funded several renewable energy and energy efficiency (RE&EE) programmes. Cote d'Ivoire has very good examples on energy-agriculture nexus out of concern that agriculture is a risk to the environment. The Government led pilot programmes two years ago on cotton and cocoa production to address adverse effects on the environment and to diminish the impact on the forest. On cooking, 80-95% of the population use biomass for cooking and this is causing serious deforestation problems. Clearing forests for firewood is the largest cause of deforestation. Only 20% of forest cover in the country is remaining. Other problems emanating from the use of firewood for cooking are human health concerns, e.g. cancer, lung diseases, miscarriages and deaths linked to firewood and toxic materials used for cooking.

Parliamentarians on Renewable Energy, Clean Cooking Solutions and Cooking with Renewable Electricity

About 30 legislators from the Mano River Union Countries – Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire, including the Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Energy from these countries, as well as a parliamentarian from Uganda, participated in a highly anticipated and very dedicated and involving discussion on the role parliament can play in the development of renewable energy, clean cooking and in particular, cooking with renewable electricity, with emphasis on the regulatory environment, financing incentives and target setting among other issues. The session was moderated by Hon. Bärbel Höhn, Chair of the Global Renewables Congress and Special Representative of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. The following paragraphs reflect the key points discussed from the remarks made by legislators in the region.

SIERRA LEONE

Parliamentarians as representatives of their constituency must go above the constitutional mandate and support Renewable Energy (RE) in order to create awareness within their community and get them to accept and embrace RE projects. People need to be included, otherwise there will not be any appreciation and the project will suffer and, in the end, may fail. The parliament, as an oversight body, and parliamentarians need to build trust for their work and projects within the people. Parliamentarians should be more closely involved in law making processes and development of laws concerning renewable energy.

GUINEA

RE plays an important role in preventing deforestation. Parliamentarians concerned with agriculture and forestry need to be included in the discussion on RE in Africa and clean cooking. In need of recognising the importance of clean water, when it comes to water preservation, healthy environment, protection of the health – of particularly women and children, etc. – and the opportunities of renewables in this field, not only cleaning of water, but also the reduction of deforestation through clean cooking. Parliamentarians need to recognise the question of how to encourage local entrepreneurs to invest and involve in RE.



Honourable Parliamentarians from MRU Countries (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, and Cote d'Ivoire), Uganda, and Germany

LIBERIA

Parliamentarians need to increase cooperation with local entrepreneurs. RE can be a means of empowerment and employment, encourage people to shift their occupation from one that is provided through coal etc. to be re-educated in the field of RE. Legislators also can impact the existing boundaries and burdens on RE, making business in RE difficult and insecure.

COTE D'IVOIRE

Importance of general education in terms of supporting the rapid and large-scale deployment of RE. Very low electrification rate in Western Africa; Cote d'Ivoire has an existing, but rather expensive and instable grid. Parliamentarians need to strive for redirection of national funds to sustainable solutions, particularly RE, to prevent deforestation, increase health, education, equality etc. Compulsory education has been introduced in Ivory Coast for children from the age of six. This will lead to a better understanding in the society of the value of nature, the potential of RE in economic and social development, agriculture, freeing potential, increase local and specialised entrepreneurship.

UGANDA

Presenting experiences from Uganda by a legislator invited by Hon. Bärbel Höhn was a unique input for legislators in the MRU region. Rural electrification is still very low at 28% in Uganda with target to produce 2000 MW of power by 2020. Parliamentarians need to encourage holistic approach to Hydropower development. They need to consider the livelihoods of adjacent communities and of hydropower dams in terms of sustainability. Charcoal, produced rurally, will mostly be brought to the cities, hence removing tax on gas by Parliament may enable city residents to shift to gas and reduce the use of charcoal. To phase out charcoal, alternative livelihoods need to be given to people working in charcoal business. Hydropower electricity should be strong, cheap and reliable to power industrialisation, and economic development; for lighting, solar should be promoted. Ugandan development bank was recapitalised to provide funds with low interest rates of 6% for small and start-up projects but now it is still 15%: this is too high for many potential entrepreneurs. Parliament should find a way with regulators to lower the interest rate. In rural areas, there exists a high mortality of women and children under the age of five due to indoor air pollution resulting from use of kerosene for lighting and too much burning of wood and charcoal for cooking using poor quality stoves in poorly ventilated kitchens.

Actions needed: Make solar lamps available to mothers to replace use of kerosene; Work on regulation for importation of quality solar products; Encourage households to plant woodlots on their lands; Subsidise prices of clean cooking stoves for households; Reduce the high electricity tariffs; Encourage local entrepreneurs; Encourage use of energy efficient appliances in homes; Harmonisation of standards and policy; Renewable energy resource mapping; Include people in all decisions; Very important for Parliamentarians to convince their people; Joint planning towards a priority sub-regional project and developing a pipeline of bankable projects for MRU.

It was also agreed that some attention is needed on strengthening the role of women and girls; strengthening of the overall role of education; deforestation needs to be prevented, and afforestation supported; overall environmental protection is in need of strengthening; jobs in fossil fuel sectors need to be transferred into occupations in producing and educating about sustainable solutions. Furthermore, the quality of renewable energy solutions needs to play a more critical role, particularly regarding solar renewables, batteries and wind power.

Experiences from work in Bangladesh, in the field of renewable energies, have shown that the provision of an official and central point of contact is necessary to make the distribution of renewables more easily accessible, increase its velocity and scale. Official institutions of the national governments need to be introduced as a “one-face” establishment to the customers to improve greater outreach and information in the general public on renewable energies as well as on these institutional offices, promotion in the form of advertisements (billboards, TV, radio, etc.) and information campaigns (online and offline).

In order to provide a comprehensive comparison of existing cooking options and of alternative cooking pathways, costs ranges for cooking with various appliances should be considered. Hivos presented

a study that investigated the costs of cooking with electricity from renewable energy sources both in mini-grid contexts and via solar home systems. Both are within the range of cost-competitiveness of other cooking alternatives. Also, like the first edition, the report found that biogas-based cooking remains an economically attractive option, particularly for households with livestock or other suitable feedstocks.

It was also highlighted that tremendous cost-saving potential of using higher efficiency cooking appliances, like slow cookers and pressure cookers can occur:

- **Over a one-hour cooking period, a pressure cooker uses just over one quarter (¼) of the electricity of the electric hot plate.**
- **Over a 4-hour cooking period, the gains increase further: a pressure cooker is twice as efficient as a slow cooker, six (6) times as efficient as an induction stove, and fully seven (7) times as efficient as an electric hot plate.**
- **In terms of costs, there is currently a 3-to-4-fold cost differential between a solar home system dimensioned for use with high-efficiency cooking appliances versus one that is dimensioned for use either with hotplates or induction stoves.**

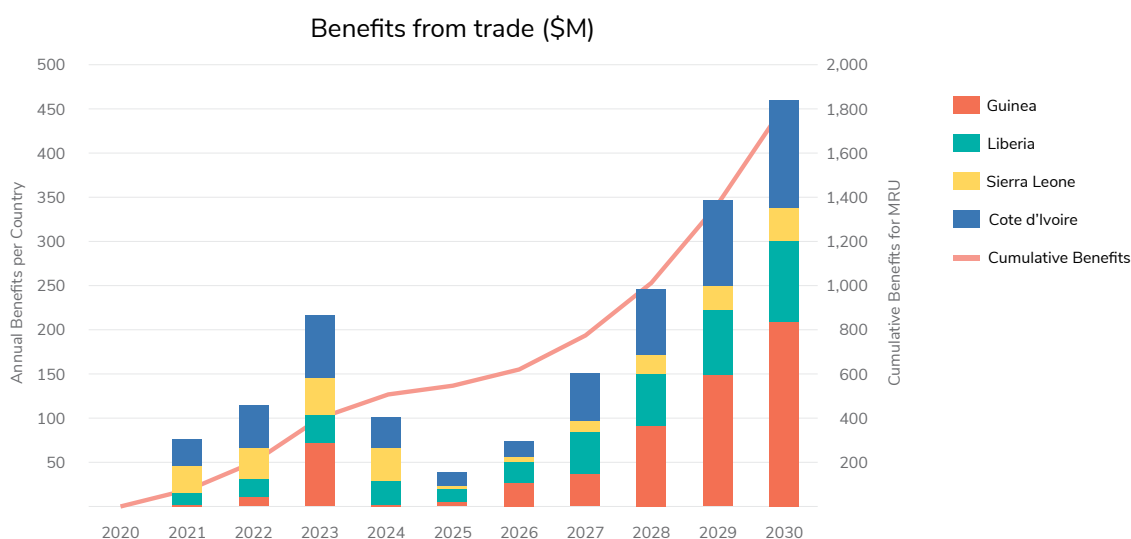
The legislators were all in favour of participating in and contribution to a parliamentary, cross-partisan network on renewable energies. The Global Renewables Congress provides its parliamentary members with briefings, capacity-building opportunities and exchange of experience, support for the development and utilisation of renewable energy, as well as policies to reach ambitious renewable energy targets across all sectors to support rapid and large-scale deployment of renewable energy solutions.

MRU Energy Market Integration and Growth

This session looked at projects and reforms to advance sub-regional energy trade. Participants discussed which political decisions, reforms and concrete projects are necessary to facilitate power trade to advance the integration of MRU energy markets. As part of a long-term production strategy, are exporters (i.e. Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea) prepared to make strategic investment decisions explicitly to trade? For example, are they prepared to invest in hydropower plants for the region / MRU area, and/or to jointly invest in a regional LNG terminal to supply the MRU countries? On the other hand, are potential importers (i.e. Sierra Leone and Liberia) prepared to rely more on imports rather than on national generation (if the latter is more expensive)? And if not: why not, what are the barriers? Are Power Purchase Agreements (PPA), Transmission Service Agreements (TSA) and operational procedures on Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia-Sierra Leone-Guinée (CLSG) optimised to allow trade? Do they allow to trade power to neighbour systems (e.g. the Gambia River Basin Development Organization (OMVG), Ghana, Burkina Faso)? What are the next priority projects needed to untap trade benefits for MRU countries? These were some of the questions raised and participants sought to find answers for governments in the sub-region to make their public utilities more financially solid and finally the role the MRU secretariat could play.

On the evolution of MRU countries by 2022, participants were informed that Cote d'Ivoire could export competitive gas-fired power. In Guinea on the other hand, seasonal hydropower could create a surplus but only during the rainy season. Liberia and Sierra Leone would still mostly be in deficit (excluding heavy fuel oil, (HFO)). Generation investment in all countries will increase and make the region more balanced off by 2025. By that time, Cote d'Ivoire will still be with (potential) large surplus with its gas more competitive than Guinea's hydropower. More interconnections could mean more potential for integration (Mali, Burkina), but also potential competition from Ghana and Nigeria, if no regulatory barriers. Guinea could import from Ivory Coast during the dry season to offer a baseload export northward through OMVG. As for the main trends, utilization of CLSG will vary with the seasonality of hydropower and with the commissioning schedule of new power plants. However, in the future intra-day trade could bring to a higher utilisation rate of the CLSG (solar from Sahel in daytime and hydro and gas from West and South in the evening and night). Future Guinea import needs could be reduced if new hydro projects will be more competitive than gas-fired generation.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS FROM TRADE (2030)



HOW TO UNTAP THESE BENEFITS?

Source:
TBI Energy Practice, 2019

Power Sector Integration and Role of Regulators

- The West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) market will likely be in oversupply between 2022 and 2025 (see TBI Trade Outlook), competition among countries will be intense and price will go down. Interesting opportunities for importers: A second line of CLSG could be useful, but watch-out the seasonality of hydro which will minimise trade during the Wet season; The importance of the line also lies in the connection with the wider WAPP market. Mali will need cheap power and CLSG can connect with the Guinea-Mali line; CLSG would also allow to integrate MRU with the OMVG and OMVS areas. For example, Guinea could import from CIV and then export to Senegal, Gambia and Guinea-Bissau; Countries need to beware of signing too many long term PPAs, then they will remain locked-in for many years and won't be flexible enough to be active player on the future spot market.
- **There are already some examples of regional generation projects:** Manantali (OMVS – existing); Sambangalou (OMVG) and Koukoutamba (OMVS), planned.
- **It is important to assure a convergence between gas and electricity markets:** Need to carefully evaluate the feasibility of a West Africa LNG project (supported by the International Finance Corporation (IFC)).
- **Trust must be built between exporters and importers:** Payment guarantees will make sure exporters will be paid; Well-done PPAs will ensure importers can rely on power coming from abroad and sellers will be penalized if they failed to supply them.
- **Importance of harmonizing regulations:** CLSG PPA should be consistent with OMVG and Guinea-Mali PPA, so to facilitate free flow of electricity.
- **Countries need more information exchange and better coordination:** National Master Plans must be consistent with the WAPP Master Plan; Governments need information about what other countries are doing (reforms, projects etc.), who can play that role? WAPP or local MRU secretariat through a strategic planning desk? Beware of overlapping structures; Every government should have a planning unit, and these should be in contact. In Sierra Leone, there are plans to set up such a planning unit.

Standards and Taxation for Off-Grid

This discussion on harmonizing standards and taxation was initiated by The Tony Blair Institute with a presentation titled "MRU Off-grid Solar Taxation and Standards Adoption and Implementation", followed by an open discussion by participants, sharing reflections and recommendations. Much of the discussion was focused on achieving national quality standards in the MRU through the Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP). ROGEP primarily seeks to promote a harmonized regional market that provides the incentive for the proliferation of stand-alone solar equipment (e.g. solar lanterns, solar home systems, solar water pumps, solar milling equipment, etc.) to homes, businesses, and communities without access to electrical grid infrastructure. This implies that the strategic implementation of ROGEP is contingent on addressing market and operational level barriers that are impeding the scaling up of solar off-grid technology in the designated countries. Currently, **none of the four Countries have in place comprehensive Quality Standards Frameworks for off-grid solar**. Countries under ROGEP have opportunity to adopt **ECOWAS Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and off-grid standards** – these standards were validated in Dakar in 2019, informed by **Lighting Global Test Methods (IEC TS 62257)**. National MRU Standards Bodies can receive support through ROGEP for adoption of the ECOSHAM Standards.

Country	Current exemptions	Detail
Sierra Leone	Duty Free Status and GST exemption (Finance Act 2016 and 2017, respectively) for: 'Importation and Sale of Photo-voltaic System Equipment and low energy or energy efficient appliances that meet relevant International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) global standards'	Support underway by ACE – Refreshed Energy Compact – for streamlining the application process and for due public announcements
Guinea	Case-by-case provision, currently. Proposed framework law (not approved yet) with specific provisions applicable to rural electrification and renewable energies	Process handled by Rural Energy Agency, AGER
Liberia	Duty Waiver provided through RREA to 'partner' companies. Fiscal Impact Study has been undertaken to support sector-wide duty waiver (not yet implemented)	Rural Energy Agency, RREA provides current exemptions
Cote d'Ivoire	Tax exemptions are in place for mini-grid systems and components, but not yet for standalone home solar or pico-systems	Handled by Ministry of Energy

The following recommendations were made around:

- **Technical support from partners to build a more nuanced picture of the current tax exemptions** being applied for off-grid solar and mini-grids across the MRU, and (importantly) the reality of their application – building on TBI's initial analysis.
- **Engaging a Working Group** that can keep stakeholders updated about changes to standing Off-Grid Solar financial incentives in each MRU Country.
- **Undertake Fiscal Impact Assessment Studies in Countries of the MRU, particularly those considering off-grid solar exemptions**, learning from Liberia (just completed). These studies help build stability of exemptions, allowing Governments to evaluate the trade-offs between revenue foregone and increased demand for systems (due to companies passing on savings to customers through reduced cost and better payment terms).
- **Publish information about the 2 ECOWAS-wide Regional Standards developed by ROGEP**, for adoption across the MRU. These will allow for immediate harmonization of standards in the sub-region and with wider ECOWAS, if adopted in each of the 4 countries.
- **Provide another such platform for the 4 MRU Governments to make shared commitments** around harmonization of their off-grid markets, for sharing the opportunity of off-grid, and for encouraging local companies to start operating across MRU borders.

Reflections and Recommendations:

- **Proposed for harmonization of MRU off-grid taxation:** Fiscal Impact Analysis – undertaking for Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, following Liberia's example to support future stability of exemptions proposed for Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea; Technical Working Group to review relevant off-grid changes underway in each country, for further integration; A new platform to champion current exemptions, clarify application process for private sector/new entrants.
- **Proposed for harmonization of MRU off-grid standards:** Engagement of ROGEP/Lighting Global Support on ECOWAS Standards Adoption; Pre-shipment of conformity program – design for sub-regional adoption.
- **Wider aspects for sub-regional off-grid market integration:** Establishment of guidelines for cross-border movement of goods; Publishing sub-regional business environment data to facilitate cross-border operations/expansion.



Summarizing technical sessions 2 and 3 (from left to right):

- **Ing. Francis Nyama**, Deputy Director General of Electricity Distribution and Supply Authority-EDSA
- **Mr. Stefan Schurig**, Secretary General of Foundations-20
- **Ms. Huda Jaffer**, Lead Designer at SELCO Foundation
- **Dr. Alfred Tunde Taylor**, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- **Ms. Tessa Lee**, TBI Energy Access Policy Adviser to the Ministry of Energy in Sierra Leone

Access to Finance and Locally Embedded Financing Models

- 1. Results based financing/performance-based incentives** – this will provide subsidies for specific activities once delivery has taken place. Gets the private sector involved and helps catalyse private capital. However, there are challenges with developing the projects, the monitoring and evaluation to check the results ahead of making payment and typically the enterprises require working capital to carry out the activities ahead of receiving payment.
- 2. A donor funded fund** – perhaps a Rural Development Fund that could fund alongside the private sector the more difficult parts to reach in conjunction with the more viable projects. The fund can also provide a first loss and guarantees to crowd in private capital that requires de-risking.
- 3. Investment in distribution and transmission** – to accelerate energy access. There are significant losses in the sector that requires a material amount of subsidies/ constant bail out from the ministry of finance on an annual basis. To turn this subsidy into investment into the sector and focusing on investment into the network, embedded generation and metering to reduce losses, improve reliability and promote power for industries will be critical. This will allow for cross subsidization to then also reach the more difficult to reach customers through the grid or bolting on existing off-grid solutions. This is one of the core recommendations from Shell Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation and the EU commission to accelerate energy access. A broken transmission and distribution sector cannot be the basis of universal energy access.

Sustainable Energy Ecosystems

What will be needed for creating the energy ecosystem for local livelihood initiatives?

- Philanthropic capital needs to go into creating the ecosystem for local initiatives to own and sustain energy initiatives in MRU area – long term resilience and inclusion using sustainable energy as a tool is the way forward for catalysing other SDGs via SDG 7.
- Energy planning needs to happen in tandem with future planning of and needs of agriculture, health, women and childcare, education, departments/ organizations etc.
- Standards and supply chains for efficiency appliances, basic household appliances, health appliances and income generating appliances needs to be developed.
- Asset based financing for sustainable energy driven households and livelihoods needs gap financing instruments such as capacity building of financiers, high risk funds, revolving funds, interest or margin monies subsidies, transaction costs subvention in West Africa.
- Training and capacity building for local enterprises or initiatives to enable energy transition, up the energy ladder needs to become part of energy planning programs.

Energy-Health Nexus – Powering Health Care

Also discussed is the link between energy access and health care. It is estimated that one in four health facilities in Sub-Saharan Africa lacks access to electricity, and three in four facilities lack reliable power. Inadequate power supply impedes the delivery of a range of health care services due to vaccine spoilage, interruptions in the use of essential medical and diagnostic devices, and lack of basic lighting for maternal delivery and emergency procedures, and electricity to power communication devices. Lack of power supply is also known to undermine the provision of adequate water, sanitation, and hygiene and affects the retention of rural health workers in remote settings. The problem and magnitude of challenge lies in limited access to electricity supply, which remains a significant impediment to service delivery in healthcare and educational facilities and to human capital development in Sub-Saharan Africa. The following elements were discussed as barriers to sustainable electrification of public institutions including health care facilities:

- Mindset – **ownership/investment of equipment** rather than **service/results**.
- No agreed \$ value on cost of living or lack of human development without electricity.
- Lack of awareness on technological innovations in solar PV to quickly and sustainably deploy electricity.
- High perceived risk – trust deficit between private sector and government to agree on long term contracts for quality service delivery against timely periodic payments.

There was consensus that any sustained action on clean energy for health care would require a combination of different actors performing different roles and responsibilities to implement successful projects.

Government could reduce capital investments on electrification (Diesel Generators, Solar Systems) and increase operating budget to public institutions for timely payment against services rendered; Establish key performance indicators (KPIs) for off grid solar electricity service standards – taking into account the technological innovations in the off grid market space; Establish real time remote monitoring and verification mechanisms acceptable to private sector, to verify quality of service delivered against KPIs that trigger warranted and timely payments; Provide long term financing to private sector at competitive rate through special financial institutions.

Development Partners could help bridge the trust deficit between Public Sector and Private Sector and help create a new wave of Public Private Partnerships to achieve universal electrification of Public Institutions; Create robust service delivery and payment mechanisms that balance minimum service with maximum payment delays; IFC could offer attractive financing packages to private sector service providers; MIGA/World Bank could provide insurance/guarantee to provide security to private sector; Absence of agreed key performance indicators (KPIs) and monitoring mechanisms to verify quality of electricity service delivered to warrant payments; Ineffective governance in managing contracts between private sector and public institutions; Operational control of maintenance payments by mid-level and regional administrators who might use allocated cash for competing priorities.

Private Sector: can become supplier of service instead of supplier of goods/equipment; Move from project by project approach to planning higher volume and more cost-effective delivery.

Public Institutions could help in changing the mindset – owners of assets/solar PV systems will become owners of long-term service contracts; Challenge of Leapfrogging – Need to train existing staff in operating and maintaining electrical appliances.



Summarizing technical session 2 and 3
(from left to right):

- Mr. Pradeep Pursnani, CEO of Kenoxa
- Mr. Sergio Portatadino, TBI Power Africa Regional (West Africa) Adviser
- Hon Bärbel Höhn, Chair of the Global Renewables Congress and BMZ Special Representative for Energy in Africa. Former Member of Parliament of German Bundestag. Former State Minister of Environment, Agriculture and Planning of North Rhine-Westphalia
- Dr. Alfred Tunde Taylor, Deputy Minister of Energy of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- Hon. Sékou Sanfina Diakité, Deputy Minister of Energy and Hydraulics of Guinea
- Mr. Koffi Macauley, President of Renewable Energy Association of Sierra Leone-REASL

Beyond Fire to Clean Cooking Solutions

A major highlight of the conference was the discussion on clean cooking solutions. About three billion people rely on traditional biomass like wood or charcoal for cooking, causing serious health impacts for the people. Cooking with charcoal and firewood sources accounts for 4 million premature deaths per year due to indoor air pollution. Deforestation has resulted into scarcity of water. It is for this reason that clean cooking solutions were accorded the same degree of importance as decentralized renewable energy systems, with the discussion attracting the attention of ministers and law makers in the sub-region. Participants were informed that cooking with renewable electricity is now cost-competitive with other cooking alternatives in most developing countries, concludes a new report called **Beyond Fire: How to achieve electric cooking** by Hivos and World Future Council. The costs of cooking with electricity – both in mini-grid contexts and via solar home systems – is now well within the range of cost-competitiveness of other cooking alternatives. Households spend on average between EUR 1 – EUR 31/month on cooking fuels. With electric cooking with Solar Home Systems (SHS), this is between EUR 5 – EUR 15/month. The costs per household of cooking with a mini-grid range from EUR 4 – EUR 36/month.

One of the reasons for the significant improvement in the economic viability of electricity-based options are

the dropped costs of both solar modules and batteries, since early 2016 between 30 to 50%. They continue to decline as markets scale-up and technologies improve. But perhaps even more significant is the use of high-efficiency cooking appliances, which helps to reduce electricity consumption as well as the total size of the solar PV and battery systems required to run cooking appliances.

To move away from current harmful cooking practices, it is important to: i) set clear goals for sustainable cooking; ii) allocate resources to provide affordable consumer finance and support strong business models; iii) introduce policies and incentives to reduce upfront costs; iv) reform fossil fuel subsidies and re-allocate to sustainable cooking technologies; v) fund R&D and innovation; and vi) mobilize international climate finance.

The discussion needs to be shifted from 'clean cooking' towards a discussion on 'alternative cooking solutions', in particular 'electrical cooking'. Nowadays the discourse is stuck on increasing the efficiency of cookstoves, fired by wood, coal or gas. To achieve 'clean' cooking genuinely, renewable electricity sources are the only solution. Participants agreed that clean cooking alternatives must be identified – and some concrete outcome must be taken at the highest political level that will target new energy sources that will protect forests and save lives, mainly of women and children.

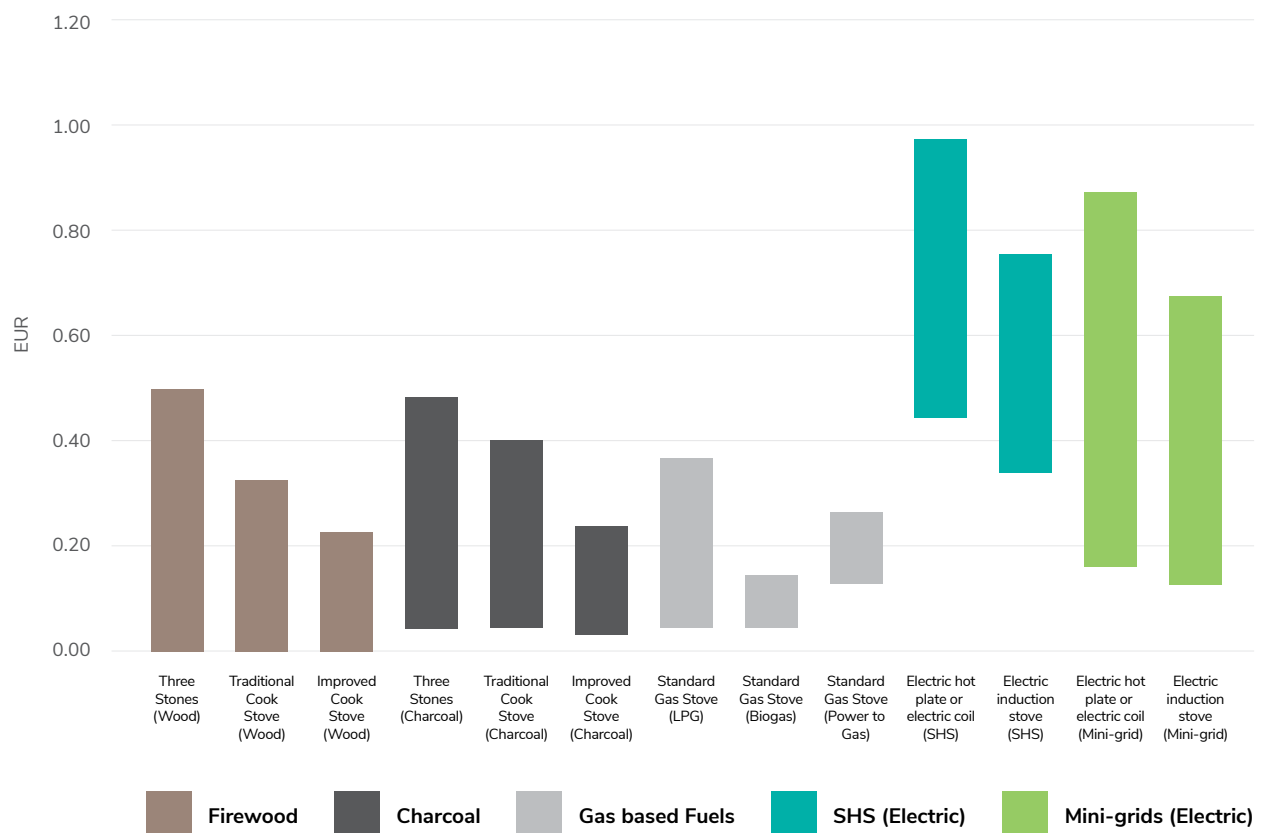


Dirty Cooking by Hivos



Alternative clean cooking option by Wonder Stove

Cost Ranges of Various Cooking Technologies (Per Person, Per Day, in EUR)







MAIN CONCLUSIONS

The conference provided concrete opportunities for regional cooperation through networking and knowledge, data and information sharing. During the two-day conference, information materials were provided to enhance, in particular, the capabilities of national and sub-regional legislators, who have a critical role to play in scaling-up renewable energy and clean (electrical) cooking solutions and in supporting the integration of the energy sector in MRU sub-region. Presentations were made on priority projects, critical issues, new opportunities and modalities for sub-regional integration in the MRU. Delegates committed to several crucial action areas as outlined in the conference outcome document dubbed **the Freetown Declaration**. Four key areas stood out:

1. **Recognition of the severity of access to renewable energy and clean cooking – at a Presidential and Ministerial level in the MRU sub-region, as well as by ECOWAS and the African Union.**
2. **Create an enabling policy framework to facilitate access to local and international finance for renewable energy and clean cooking.**
3. **Policy designs should build on local conditions and unleash business models.**
4. **Research, including modelling of regional or national trajectories of maturing the energy sector, is urgently needed.**

Finally, government representatives, legislators, private sector actors, civil society and the development community agreed to exhibit true leadership in developing an enabling and conducive environment and increase their efforts to explore joint measures to develop the renewable energy sector and clean cooking solutions in the Mano River Union.

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

FREETOWN DECLARATION

1. We, the Ministers of Energy, Parliamentarians, Civil Society Organizations and Private Sector Players working on renewable energy, have gathered at the Radisson Blu, Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown, Sierra Leone for the maiden edition of the Mano River Union Multi-Stakeholder Conference on Renewable Energy and Clean Cooking from the 18th to 19th November 2019.
2. We reaffirm our confidence in the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (Agenda 2030), and the timely and full realisation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 Targets adopted in September 2015 at the 70th UNGA in New York, USA, and reiterate our commitment and determination to ensure delivery on the Energy Goals of SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy and related energy objectives of the AU Agenda 2063.
3. We recognise that access to energy is a significant concern for the Mano River Union (MRU) Governments (Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone). We also recognise that energy access is a serious challenge and a major development constraint in the sub-region. We reiterate that energy is a crucial enabler of economic development and other social priorities, such as poverty alleviation, food security, improvements in health and education, access to clean water and sanitation, economic empowerment, especially for women, and meeting climate change targets and environmental standards.
4. We recognise that current global developments and specific circumstances in the sub-region require that we urgently build consensus on renewable energy. Therefore, we resolve to work on a harmonised policy and regulatory framework, and facilitate efforts aimed at building a common sub-regional market for the scale up of off-grid solar systems and mini-grids, where appropriate. In so doing, we will endeavour to take concrete actions to attract the best companies to the sub-region, and to help our respective market players and local entrepreneurs operate more seamlessly across our sub-region's borders. We will also dedicate ourselves to scaling up innovative finance mechanisms (for off-grid solar businesses and customers) and take joint action to tackle market barriers and support entrepreneurs across the sub-region.
5. We recognise the vital importance of an effective MRU sub-regional mechanism, in accordance with international laws, to support progress in the areas of renewable energy access and clean cooking solutions and the interconnected challenges and threats confronting the sub-region. We resolve to facilitate policies and regulations that build on local circumstances, especially last mile communities, and ensure adequate intervention in the energy nexus with health, clean water and sanitation, education, agriculture, manufacturing/industry, and small and medium enterprises.
6. We recognise that there has been a tendency for clean cooking to be treated as a separate sector rather than an integral part of the wider energy system, resulting, for example, in the lack of interest in cleaner alternatives. We endorse targeted market research, including modelling of regional or national trajectories for maturing the energy sector as a matter of urgency, to understand the scale of the issue and to provide data analysis that could inform future policy interventions, tailored to the specific opportunities and challenges in each country.

7. We recognise the severity of clean cooking problems in the wider African region. We resolve to cooperate with the Global Alliance for Clean Cooking, and the Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA), the Clean Cooking Fund, the Coalition of Leaders that were recently launched at the UN Climate Summit at the 74th UNGA in September 2019, given the importance of the issue and related social and environmental impact in each of the four countries. We pledge to facilitate determined actions on clean cooking at the highest political level. We believe that through demonstration of clear leadership and increased coordination, the MRU can help to incentivise new ECOWAS-wide political commitments and projects required to turn the tide on Clean Cooking.
8. We reaffirm our commitment to sound policies, good governance at all levels and the rule of law, and to mobilizing domestic resources, attracting international flows, promoting international trade as an engine for development, increasing international financial and technical cooperation for development.
9. We acknowledge the vital role the private sector can play in generating new investments, employment and financing in the energy sector. Therefore, we resolve to encourage greater public-private partnership for direct investment, including foreign and local investment in the sub-region to support the energy development initiatives and to enhance the benefits they can derive from such investments.
10. We reaffirm that each country must take primary responsibility for its own development. Nevertheless, we recognise that national efforts should be complemented by supportive sub-regional initiatives on renewable energy and clean cooking, while taking into account national conditions and ensuring respect for national ownership, strategies and sovereignty.
11. We commit ourselves to take immediate action as a follow-up in the following areas:
 - i. Work together to harmonize policies for renewable energy and off-grid solutions across our four countries under the leadership of the MRU Secretariat;
 - ii. Seek technical assistance from international development partners to undertake relevant technical studies regarding status of clean cooking solutions;
 - iii. Establish an MRU association of private sector actors in renewable energy and clean cooking solutions;
 - iv. Commit ourselves to enhance cooperation amongst our legislators in the fields of energy, energy regulators, and ministries of energy;
 - v. Undertake the development of a roadmap for regional energy market integration and implementation of the recommendation from this first ever high-level conference on renewable energy and clean cooking;
 - vi. Work with the MRU Secretariat for technical and financial support on a sub-regional energy strategy;
 - vii. Coordinate to strengthen a business enabling environment to attract private investment to the energy sectors of the sub-region;
 - viii. Explore and pursue, wherever relevant, opportunities for cross-border trade amongst MRU member states;
 - ix. Commit to have this platform as a regular international event that will be held in the sub-region annually.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Day 1: Monday November 18, 2019

08:00 – 08:45 **Registration**

Opening Plenary – Convening senior representatives from the Government (Ministers and Members of Parliament), Civil Society Organizations, Electricity Energy Regulators, Renewable Energy Agencies, Energy Experts, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, and the general public.

- 09:00 – 10:30
- **Welcoming Statement by Sierra Leone Ministry of Energy** | Permanent Secretary
 - **Video Message from Partners**
 - **Remarks from MRU Secretariat** | Amb. Medina A. Wesseh Esq., MRU Secretary General
 - **Global Energy Context** | Hon. Dr Kandeh K. Yumkella, (Founder & Chairman, TENN)
 - **Remarks from ECREEE** | Mr. Mahama Kappiah, Executive Director
 - **Ambassador Maria E. Brewer** introducing **Mr. Andrew Herscowitz** (Power Africa Coordinator) for his Remarks: Accomplishments on the continent, in the MRU and the new WAEP
 - **Ambassador Horst Gruner** introducing **Hon. Bärbel Höhn** (Chair of the Global Renewables Congress and former MP of the German Bundestag and Acting Commissioner for Energy Reform in Africa) for her Remarks
 - **Welcoming Address** | Hon. Alhaji Kanja Sesay, Minister of Energy of Sierra Leone: Situating Sierra Leone's energy sector – challenges and opportunities – within the Sub-Regional MRU context
 - **Keynote Address** | H.E. President Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone: Re-visiting the New Direction Energy objectives and Energy Sector progress. Establish the high-level commitment to Sub-Regional Energy Market integration and towards new MRU government commitments for clean cooking

10:30 – 11:00 **Networking Tea-break – informal session**

SESSION I. Ministerial Roundtable – key successes, new opportunities in their respective sectors

- 11:00 – 12:00
- Moderator – Hon. Minister of Energy Alhaji Kanja Sesay**
- Presentations (or Q&A) regarding progress across the 5 principal themes: energy access, regional trade, energy-economic development/energy-health nexus; clean cooking; & Utilities
 - Ministers to present priority projects, critical issues on the need to secure baseload power and generation planning.

SESSION II. Overview of Sub-Regional Integration efforts for Energy Development in the MRU

- 12:00 – 13:30
- Moderator – Hon. Dr Kandeh Yumkella & Prof. Kelleh Mansaray Dean, College of Engineering, University of Sierra Leone**
- Sustainable Energy Ecosystem | Ms. Huda Jaffer, Lead Designer SELCO Foundation
 - Power Sector Integration and Role of Regulators | Ms. Esther Drumm, Project Manager, German Development Bank
 - MRU Road Map for Energy Market Integration | Mr. Ahmed Jalloh, MRU Energy Officer
- Overview of progress towards, and opportunities for, driving the sub-regional energy markets: off-grid and regional energy trade. Suggested themes:**
- Access to finance through the Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP), including debt financing for ECOWAS and the Sahel for scaling up proliferation of standalone home solar market | Mr. Mahama Kappiah, ECREEE Executive Director
 - Progress towards quality assurance frameworks, and regional harmonisation Analysis of benefits of sub-regional energy trading and key regional projects (transmission and distribution) | Mr. Bakayoko, DG for CIE / Dr. Patrick Taravalli, Adviser-MoE Sierra Leone
 - The Market Delivery Unit – accelerating the West African Power Pool (WAPP) – Market Integration | Rep. from WAPP
 - Private Sector Operators of Mini-Grids | Mr. Joseph Harrington, PowerGen, Energy City Rep

13:30 – 15:00 **Networking Lunch**

SESSION III. Parallel Break-Out Sessions – Participants signing-up for the following sessions

- 15:00 – 16:30
- Levelling Off-Grid/On-Grid Subsidy: “Taking a more Bold and Innovative Approach” | Hon. G. Murray, MoE-Liberia /Anita, USAID Off-Grid Lead/Pradeep, Konexa-CEO/Aminata ACE/TAF
 - Mano River Union: Review of projects for sub-regional energy trade (including CLSG) and estimating overall market readiness – Mr. Sergio Portatadino, TBI Power Africa Regional Adviser / Hon. Aboudramane Cissé, Minister of Petroleum, Energy and Renewable Energy-CI
 - Promoting Productive Use of Energy to increase project viability | Mr. Nick Gardner-UNOPS-Country Manager/ Mr. Kofie Macauley, President of the REASL / Mr. Hartlieb Euler, GIZ-MRU
 - The role of Parliament in Renewable Energy Development – regulatory environment, financial incentives, target setting etc. | Hon. Bärbel Höhn, Chair of the Global Renewables Congress / Hon. Keikura C. Vandy, Chair Energy Select Committee Parliament of Sierra Leone
 - Joint planning towards a priority sub-regional project and developing a pipeline of bankable projects for MRU | Hon. Dr. Cheick Taliby Sylla, MoE-Guinea/ Mr. Jalloh, MRU Energy Officer
- 16:30 – 16:45 **Networking Tea-break – informal session**
- 16:45 – 18:15
- Standards and Taxation for Off-Grid | Ms. Tessa Lee, TBI Energy Access Policy Advisor
 - The role of energy utilities: how to solve the challenges of financial sustainability, management and losses | Managing Director EDSA
 - The Role of Natural Gas in MRU Energy Trade, LNG terminals | Rep. Power Africa
 - Access to Finance, and locally embedded financing models for Renewable Energy | Rep. of Power Africa / Mr. Benjamin Laag, Senior Policy Officer, Energy, Infrastructure, Raw Materials at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
 - Modelling Energy Transition Roadmaps | Mr. Stefan Schurig, SG of Foundations-20

Day 2: Tuesday November 19, 2019

SESSION I. Building an MRU Coalition of Leader for Change around Clean Cooking

- 09:00 – 10:15 **Chair – Hon. Dr. Elfred Tunder Taylor, Deputy Minister of Energy of Sierra Leone.**
- Reporting from Breakout Sessions
 - Presentation of Principal Conclusions

10:15 – 11:00 **Networking Tea-break – informal session**

SESSION II. Energy and Health Nexus

- 11:00 – 12:15 **Chair – Ms. Gayle Martin, World Bank Sierra Leone Country Director**
- Video on Energy and Health Nexus
 - Powering Health Service Delivery | Mr. Rahul Srinivasan, Energy Specialist at the World Bank
 - Beyond Fire to Clean Cooking Solutions | Eco Matser, Coordinator Climate Energy & Development
 - Building the Health and Energy Platform of Action (HEPA) | WHO
- 12:15 – 13:00 **Moderator – Ms. Aminata Dumbuya, Country Manager ACE-TAF**
- Africa Clean Energy-Technical Assistance Facility (ACE-TAF) Sierra Leone Kick Off

13:00 – 14:00 **Networking Lunch – informal session**

SESSION III. Closing Plenary – MRU Roadmap for Integration

- 14:00 – 15:00 **Facilitators – Hon. Alhaji Kanja I. Sessay / Hon. Bärbel Höhn**
- Reviewing relevant outcomes of technical sessions
 - Commitments from Legislators and Ministers
 - Roadmap for Energy Market Integration – what's needed to drive forward

SESSION IV. Field Visits

- 15:00 – 18:00 **Participants are requested to register interest for the Field Visit:**
- 6MW Solar Park at Newton, and Barefoot Women College

GUINEA

SIERRA
LEONE

LIBERIA

COTE
D'IVOIRE

CONFERENCE ORGANIZER / COORDINATION:



Institute of Leadership and
Environmental Management
(ILEM Consultancy)

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