









CONCEPT NOTE

Financing Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Co-organizers: UNDP, Government of North Macedonia, IOM, UNECE, EBRD, ESCWA, ECA, and ESCAP

Date and time: 29 October (14:00) - 30 October (16:45) 2025

Link for online participation

Background

Financing available for energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) remains insufficient to achieve Target 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix and Target 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency of the Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7). The reasons are multi-prong and include, but are not limited to, various challenges in legal frameworks, policies, structure of subsidies (including for fossil fuels), implementation practices, practices of banks and other financial institutions, and consumer behaviour. While there has been much progress in making investments in RE and EE business-as-usual, significant work remains to bring them fully to that stage. Reducing barriers to increasing investment and financing flows to EE and RE projects, with an emphasis on commercial projects and private financing, as well as possible public-private partnership arrangements, remains an important objective in many countries of the world. Thus, looking into ways to attract investments to EE and RE projects in various economic sectors (households, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), industry, buildings, transport, services, and electricity generation) may bring solutions that are vital for achieving SDG7.

The role of international financial institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors, UN system and other international organizations, and public sector funds is indispensable. While the goal is to further commercialize RE and EE projects,





























support from those entities remains an important factor in attracting investments. This session will consider examples of combining such support with private financing.

The first part of the session will take a close look at the Green Finance Facility (GFF) Programme – an innovative financial mechanism in North Macedonia that provides access to affordable finance for SMEs and underserved households through a unique partnership between the Government, UN agencies, IFI (in this programme European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)), and local commercial financial institutions. This part of the event will present the progress and results of GFF partnerships and investments, demonstrate the impact of green finance initiatives on air quality and climate change mitigation, and open a dialogue on scaling up innovative financing models for greater environmental and social impact.

Objectives

- Highlight successful case studies of attracting investments in EE and RE across different sectors.
- Share practical experiences and lessons learned of countries, the private sector, financial institutions, and international organizations in overcoming financing barriers.
- Demonstrate the role of bilateral and multilateral donors and international financial institutions in reducing risks and enabling private capital flows.
- Promote innovative approaches and blended financing models that combine public and private resources for greater impact.
- Encourage cross-sector collaboration to scale up sustainable energy investments and advance climate action.





























Target Audience

Governments, financial institutions, business representatives, international organizations, representatives of SMEs and households, professional and civil society organizations, and research institutions.

Provisional Agenda

Time (Skopje) 29 October	Agenda
14:00 – 14:15	Welcoming remarks
	 Ms. Sanja Bozhinovska, Minister of Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources of North Macedonia Ms. Rita Columbia, UN Resident Coordinator in North Macedonia Mr. Armen Grigoryan, UNDP Resident Representative in North Macedonia
14:15 - 15:15	Unlocking the Green Potential: Green Finance Facility (GFF) Moderator: Ms. Slagjana Srbinoska, Programme Analyst, UNDP in North Macedonia
	 Ms. Gordana Popovikj Friedman, Project Manager, UNDP in North Macedonia. Mr. Naum Ribaroski, Senior Banker, EBRD Office in North Macedonia Ms. Vanja Lazaridis, Project Manager, IOM Office in North Macedonia Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break





























15:45 – 17:00	Financing Renewable Energy: The Business Perspective
	Moderator: Mr. Kiril Papazovski, Director Legal at PwC
	Mr. Eric Sotto, Chairman and Co-founder of Akuo Energy
	 Mr. Wolfgang Maier, Chairman of the Management Board of EVN Macedonia
	 Mr. Daniel Lancha, Partner, Alcazar Energy
	Voltalia, TBC (France)
	 Mr. Andreas Dreisiebner, Sales & Marketing, WepfAir,
	Switzerland
Time (Skopje) 30 October	Agenda
9:00 – 10:15	Role of international financial institutions in attracting
9.00 - 10.13	investments to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy projects
	Moderator: Mr. Armen Grigoryan, UNDP Resident Representative in North Macedonia
	Ms. Carole Megevand, Country Manager for Kosovo and North Macedonia, World Bank
	 Mr. Moritz Reme, Office Director, Kosovo and North Macedonia, KfW
	Mr. Nizomiddin Rakhmanov, Climate Change
	Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Uzbekistan Resident Mission
	 Mr. Stefan Kostovski, Principal Banker, European
	Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
	European Investment Bank Representation (TBC)



























10:15 – 10:45	Coffee break
10:45 – 12:00	Experience of North Macedonia in Improving Air Quality through Energy Efficiency
	Moderator: Ms. Sarah Barnekow, Deputy Programme Manager and Regional Air Quality Advisor, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
12:00 – 14:00	 Mr. Ola Sohlström, Ambassador of Sweden to North Macedonia Mr. Dejan Mirakovski, Rector, University Goce Delchev, North Macedonia Ms. Aleksandra Dimova Manchevska, Project Manager, UNDP North Macedonia Ms. Slagjana Srbinoska, Programme Analyst, UNDP North Macedonia Lunch
14:00 – 15:15	Case studies: Best practices and lessons learned from projects implemented by the UN system and other international organizations
	Moderator: Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
	 Mr. Vahram Jalalyan, Project Coordinator, UNDP-GCF Project "De-Risking and Scaling-up Investment in Energy Efficient Building Retrofits", UNDP Armenia Mr. Yevgen Groza, Just Energy Transition Portfolio Manager, UNDP Moldova Mr. Isomiddin Akramov, Programme Analyst on Climate Change, UNDP Uzbekistan





























	 Ms. Jana Koperniech, Regional Technical Specialist – Climate Change Mitigation, UNDP Europe and Central Asia Ms. Mapolao Mokoena, Director – Infrastructure, Directorate of Infrastructure, SADC Secretariat Mr. Soumyadeep Banerjee, Regional Technical Specialist on Climate Action, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 16:30	Scaling Up Sustainability - Innovative Finance for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
	Moderator: Mr. Riad Meddeb, Director, UNDP Sustainable Energy Hub
	 Mr. David Oberhuber, Country Director of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), North Macedonia and Kosovo Mr. Rashid Ali Abdalla, Executive Director, African Energy Commission (AFREC), African Union Mr. Samer Zawaydeh, Former President, Association of Energy Engineers, Jordan; Lecturer, Al Hussein Technical University, Jordan Mr. Dario Liguti, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE
16:30 – 16:45	Wrap-up and closing: Way forward for financing and investment in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
	• <i>Mr. Petar Mitrovic</i> , Partner, Karanovic & Partners, Serbia

















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Mode of Delivery

The session will take place in a hybrid format (in-person and online).

Contact

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