



*From goals to ACTION: Powering the FUTURE with* **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**

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,

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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) UN Joint Programme – a model of blended finance and 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 (the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)), and local partner 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 from 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.

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## Provisional Agenda

| Time (Skopje) | Agenda  |
|---------------|---|
| 29 October    |   |
| 14:00 – 14:15 | <p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Sanja Bozhinovska</b>, Minister of Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources of North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Rita Columbia</b>, UN Resident Coordinator in North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Armen Grigoryan</b>, UNDP Resident Representative in North Macedonia</li> </ul>  |
| 14:15 - 15:30 | <p><b>Unlocking the Green Potential: Green Finance Facility (GFF) UN Joint Programme</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Slagjana Srbinska</b>, Programme Analyst, UNDP in North Macedonia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Dimitar Parnardziev</b>, Head of Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Sector at Ministry of Energy, Mining and Mineral Resources in the Government of North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Gordana Popovikj Friedman</b>, Project Manager, UNDP in North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Naum Ribaroski</b>, Senior Banker, EBRD Office in North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Vanja Lazaridis</b>, Project Manager, IOM Office in North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski</b>, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE</li> </ul> |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | <b>Coffee break</b>   |

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| <p><b>15:45 – 17:00</b></p>                       | <p><b>Financing Renewable Energy: The Business Perspective</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Kiril Papazoski</i>, Director Legal at PwC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Wolfgang Maier</b>, Chairman of the Management Board of EVN Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Daniel Lancha</b>, Partner, Alcazar Energy</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Andreas Dreisiebner</b>, Sales &amp; Marketing, WepfAir, Switzerland</li> <li>• <b>Aleksandar Sardjovski</b>, Chief Executive Officer, EDS - Energy Delivery Solutions, PPC Group, North Macedonia</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Time (Skopje)</b><br/><b>30 October</b></p> | <p><b>Agenda</b></p>  |
| <p><b>9:00 – 10:15</b></p>                        | <p><b>Role of International Financial Institutions in Attracting Investments to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy projects</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Armen Grigoryan</i>, UNDP Resident Representative in North Macedonia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Carole Megevand</b>, Country Manager for Kosovo* and North Macedonia, World Bank</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Moritz Reme</b>, Office Director, Kosovo* and North Macedonia, KfW</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Nizomiddin Rakhmanov</b>, Climate Change Officer, Asian Development Bank (ADB) Uzbekistan Resident Mission</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Stefan Kostovski</b>, Principal Banker, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>10:15 – 10:45</b></p>                       | <p><b>Coffee break</b></p>  |

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| <p><b>10:45 – 12:00</b></p> | <p><b>Experience of North Macedonia in Improving Air Quality through Energy Efficiency</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: <b>Ms. Sarah Barnekow</b>, Deputy Programme Manager and Regional Air Quality Advisor, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Ola Sohlström</b>, Ambassador of Sweden to North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Dejan Mirakovski</b>, Rector, University Goce Delchev, North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Aleksandra Dimova Manchevska</b>, Project Manager, UNDP North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Slagjana Srbinska</b>, Programme Analyst, UNDP North Macedonia</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>12:00 – 14:00</b></p> | <p><b>Lunch</b></p>  |
| <p><b>14:00 – 15:15</b></p> | <p><b>Case studies: Best practices and lessons learned from projects implemented by the UN system and other international organizations</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: <b>Mr. Oleg Dzioubinski</b>, Regional Adviser, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Vahram Jalalyan</b>, Project Coordinator, UNDP-GCF Project “De-Risking and Scaling-up Investment in Energy Efficient Building Retrofits”, UNDP Armenia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Yevgen Groza</b>, Just Energy Transition Portfolio Manager, UNDP Moldova</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Isomiddin Akramov</b>, Programme Analyst on Climate Change, UNDP Uzbekistan</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Jana Koperniech</b>, Regional Technical Specialist – Climate Change Mitigation, UNDP Europe and Central Asia</li> </ul> |

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|                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Mapolao Mokoena</b>, Director – Infrastructure, Directorate of Infrastructure, SADC Secretariat</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Soumyadeep Banerjee</b>, Regional Technical Specialist on Climate Action, International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia</li> </ul>   |
| <b>15:15 – 15:45</b> | <b>Coffee break</b>   |
| <b>15:45 – 16:35</b> | <p><b>Scaling Up Sustainability - Innovative Finance for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy</b></p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Riad Meddeb</i>, Director, UNDP Sustainable Energy Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. David Oberhuber</b>, Country Director of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), North Macedonia and Kosovo*</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Rashid Ali Abdalla</b>, Executive Director, African Energy Commission (AFREC), African Union</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Samer Zawaydeh</b>, Former President, Association of Energy Engineers, Jordan; Lecturer, Al Hussein Technical University, Jordan</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Ion Muntean</b>, Director, National Center for Sustainable Energy (CNED), Republic of Moldova</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Dario Liguti</b>, Director, Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE</li> </ul> |
| <b>16:35 – 16:45</b> | <b>Wrap-up and Q/A</b>  |

*\*All references to Kosovo should be understood as in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.*

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Republic of North Macedonia  
Ministry of Energy, Mining  
and Mineral Resources



14<sup>th</sup> International Forum on  
**ENERGY FOR  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**  
28-30 October 2025, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia



United  
Nations



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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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