

Draft Concept Note

Technical Session- Fourth Assembly of the ISA

ISA-UNEP and SEWA

“Enhancing the Capacity of Women to Support Energy Transition”

21 Oct 2021, 10:00 HRS- 11:00 HRS (IST)

Despite making up 48% of global labour force – women only account for 22% of the traditional energy sector. At various levels of management, these numbers shrink furthermore. A wide range of actors - national and international development organizations, private sector and the public sector are all recognizing the significant role played by women in the global energy transition. This session intends to share the consolidated learnings and best practices from successfully implemented projects in the renewable energy space by UN agencies, actors, foundations and private sector.

The aim of this session is to provide strategic guidance to ISA member countries, partners and the broader UN community on the need for developing a gender balanced energy work force. Engaging women’s as active agents, providing them access to certified training and capacity development courses with internships opportunities for skill development in technical and non-technical subjects and mentoring them on leadership and business skills should be the top priority. The recommendations made during the session will add to the momentum for strengthening gender equality as one of the critical pathways for energy transition by 2030.

Women in developing countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change as they are highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood. Solar energy has proven to be a catalyst for both women's economic empowerment, and rural development when promoted through an integrated approach that includes raising awareness, capacity building, soft skills enhancement, inclusive partnerships, access to innovative finance and an enabling policy environment. Access to clean energy improves women’s health, safety, productivity, education, and integration in society and the economy.

It is thus essential to address the range of barriers that women face in benefiting from and participating in sustainable energy solutions.

This session will further discuss the following critical aspects:

1. Development of gender-neutral policy frameworks that take women's needs and capabilities into account in relation to sustainable energy;
2. Challenges in scaling up efforts at grassroots level for women entrepreneurs in setting up decentralized energy planning, management, trading practices;
3. Role of financial systems and banks to adapt their financial products and procedures to meet women's needs to ensure start-up capital for female micro-entrepreneurs engaged in sales and distribution of energy products and services;
4. The session will also provide some practical examples and showcase how such challenges have been solved through innovative interventions and the replication of such solutions at scale.

Tentative Agenda*

Agenda item	Time (IST)	Speaker
Opening Remarks and context setting	10:00 HRS-10:05HRS	Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, ISA
Welcome Remarks	10:05HRS-10:10 HRS	Shri. Atul Bagai, India Head, UNEP
Keynote Address	10:10 HRS-10:15HRS	Shri Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, Secretary, MNRE
Keynote Address	10:15 HRS-10:20 HRS	Ms. Reema Nanavaty, Chairperson SEWA
Panel Discussion with Q&A	10:20 HRS-10:55HRS	<p>Moderated by: Dr Megha Pushpendra, Lead Strategic Communication, ISA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Parimita Mohanty Programme Management Officer, Renewable Energy, UNEP Bangkok 2. Ms. Vaishali Nigam Sinha, Chief Sustainability Officer, ReNew Power 3. Ms. Megan Fellone, Founder, Barefoot College 4. Ms. Susan Jane Ferguson, Country representative, UN Women

Vote of Thanks & Concluding Remarks	10: 55 HRS- 11:00 HRS	UNEP/ISA
-------------------------------------	-----------------------	----------