

## CALL TO ACTION

### “CLEAN ENERGY WITHOUT BORDERS FOR A WORLD WITHOUT HUNGER”

**We, the Global Network of Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC),  
comprising (...)**

- ❖ *The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)*
- ❖ *The Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) for Arab countries*
- ❖ *The SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)*
- ❖ *The East African Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (EACREEE) of the East African Community (EAC)*
- ❖ *The Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency for Central Africa (CEREEAC) of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)*
- ❖ *The Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) of the Pacific Community (SPC)*
- ❖ *The Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*
- ❖ *The SICA Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SICREEE) of the Energy Unit of the Central American Integration System (SICA)*
- ❖ *The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Capability for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (REEECH) of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)*
- ❖ *The Clean Energy Centre of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (CECECO)*

***accelerating the energy transition “from the regions for the regions”  
in 120 countries and territories in the Global South by fostering harmonized  
markets for renewable and energy efficient solutions, are (...)***

**NOTING** that recent global shocks and conflicts have led to rising fuel, fertilizer and food prices and interruption of essential supply-chains of the agri-food industry, particularly impacting least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), small island developing states (SIDS). Still, 733 million people suffer from hunger and 2.3 billion people – 28.9% of the global population – face severe food insecurity.

**RECALLING** that the transformation pathways of food, energy and water systems are heavily intervened and climate change adds additional stress on already vulnerable agri-food value and supply-chains in the Global South. In this context, we draw particular attention to the smallholder farmers in Sub-Saharan Africa and in the mountain regions of the Hindu Kush-Himalayas, who are finding it difficult to adapt to climate change. Agriculture and aquafarming have a unique link with energy as they can consume and produce it, the latter through sustainable bioenergy.

**NOTING** that the livelihoods of 2.5 billion people depend on agriculture and energy is essential at every stage of the agri-food value chain, including irrigation, primary and fertilizer production, post-harvesting, transportation, cooling, storage and cooking. Energy is also a key enabler for higher yields, increased income, lower losses, greater climate resilience and decarbonization. It is a key driver of the fourth industrial revolution and digitalization in the agri-food industry.

**RECALLING** that today still 685 million people, farmers and agribusinesses in the Global South lack of access to electricity services or depend on expensive diesel generators, what hampers productivity, food security, climate resilience and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Agri-food systems use about 30% of the world's energy and are responsible for one-quarter of GHG emissions. Fossil fuels provide 70 to 80% of the energy used in agri-food systems.

**RECALLING** that despite remarkable achievements, still 2.3 billion people in 128 countries - nearly one third of the global population - cook their meals over open fires or on simple stoves, breathing harmful smoke produced by burning coal, charcoal, firewood, agricultural wastes, and animal dung. Indoor pollution causes 3.7 million premature deaths each year, affecting women and children in particular. In business-as-usual scenarios, still over 1.8 billion people will lack access to clean cooking in 2030.

**RECOGNISING** that distributed renewable energy, efficient and high-performing agri-food appliances for irrigation, milling, processing, drying, cooling, transport and cooking are effective tools to reduce post-harvest losses, enhance productivity, food security, climate resilience, and decouple the agri-industry from fossil fuels and GHG emissions. In this context, we highlight the opportunities for the domestic production of green fertilizers in the Global South based on renewable energy, including ammonia from green hydrogen.

**UNDERLINING** the vast viable renewable energy potentials in all developing regions, including the Hindu Kush-Himalaya, comprising photovoltaics, solar thermal, wind, sustainable hydropower and bioenergy, geothermal, as well as the growing market of clean agritech solutions and practices, including green mini-grids, off-grid systems, agrivoltaics and aquaponics. At the same time these solutions can contribute to gender equality and youth employment.

**REFERRING** to the manifold barriers and constraints the industrial roll-out of renewable energy, efficient and high-performing agri-food appliances face particularly in LDCs, such as isolated and fragmented national markets and supply-chains, lack of conducive policy and regulatory frameworks, lack of data and knowledge, weak fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, low quality standards and infrastructure, insufficient access to technology and commercial and concessional finance.

***We, therefore, call the leaders of the World Without Hunger Conference  
in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to (...)***

**ACKNOWLEDGE** that a *World Without Hunger*, needs a *World with Universal Access to Sustainable Energy for All*. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG2) cannot be attained without investing in Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG7) and a just energy transition.

**UNLOCK** the multi-billion USD market opportunity for renewable energy, efficient and high-performing agri-food appliances and green fertilizers in the Global South by setting enabling national and regional policy frameworks and financial instruments. Along the global demand for four off-grid solar appliances serving the agri-food industry - fans, water pumps, cold storage, and grain mills – is estimated with around 159 million units in 2024.

**LAUNCH** a massive public-private investment program for distributed renewable energy, efficient and high-performing agri-food appliances. USD 21.3 billion - or USD 3.6 billion per year between 2025 to 2030 - is needed for off-grid solar solutions to play its critical role in achieving universal access by 2030. Additional USD 74 billion is needed to boost markets for solar water pumps, cold storage and other productive use applications. Investment in clean cooking stoves and infrastructure needs USD 8 billion annually, USD 4 billion for Africa alone.

**INVEST** in green industrial skills development, entrepreneurship, innovation and quality infrastructure in the Global South, to unlock the vast job and income potential along the value chains of renewable energy, clean cooking and efficient appliance manufacturing and servicing. Already today, across East, West and Central Africa, as well as South Asia, including the Hindu Kush Himalaya region, the solar off-grid sector creates more than 370,000 full time jobs, 27% of them filled by women.

**ENDORSE** the Call to Action of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (GN-SEC), coordinated by UNIDO, for “Clean Energy Without Borders for a World Without Hunger” and acknowledge the importance of regional market approaches and cooperation to accelerate the industrial roll-out of distributed renewable energy and high-performing agri-food appliances for the benefit of all. Regional supply-chains, shared resources, harmonised quality standards, joint learning and pooling of funds can become a “game changer” and create the needed economies of scales.

Issued on 5 November 2024, Addis Ababa

## Signatories of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centers (GN-SEC)



**Jean Francis SEMPORE, Executive Director  
ECREEE**

Date: 5 November 2024

Place: Praia, Cabo Verde



**Dr. Maged K. Mahmoud  
Executive Director (Acting)  
Regional Center for Renewable Energy  
and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE)**

Date: 30 October 2024

Place: Cairo, Egypt



**Désiré Armand NDEMAZAGOA  
BACKOTTA  
Directeur Energie  
Le Centre pour les énergies renouvelables et  
l'efficacité énergétique en Afrique centrale  
(CEREEAC)**

Commission de la Communauté Economique  
des Etats de l'Afrique Centrale

Date : 31/10/2024

Place : Libreville



**Canon Goddy Muhanguzi Muhumuza  
Executive Director, EACREEE**

Date: 31.10.2024

Place: KAMPALA, UGANDA



**Mr. Kudakwashe Ndhulukula  
Executive Director  
SADC Centre for Renewable Energy  
and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE)**

Date: 3 November 2024

Place: Namibia, Windhoek



**Mr. Fuad Farzalibeyov,  
Director of Energy, Minerals and  
Environment (EME), Secretariat of the  
Economic Cooperation Organization.  
ECO Clean Energy Centre (CECECO)**

Date: 03 November 2024

Place: Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran



**Dr. Mohammad Rafik M.S. Nagdee**  
**Executive Director**  
**Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy**  
**and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE)**

Date: 31 October 2024

Place: Bridgetown, Barbados



**Mr. Solomone Fifita**  
**Manager of the**  
**Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy**  
**and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE)**

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024

Place: Nuku'alofa, Tonga



**Dr. Pema Gyamtsho,**  
**Director General of the**  
**International Centre for Integrated**  
**Mountain Development (ICIMOD)**  
**Hosting the Renewable Energy and Energy**  
**Efficiency Capability for the Hindu Kush**  
**Himalaya (REEECH)**

Date: 31 October 2024

Place: Kathmandu, Nepal

## INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS

If you would like to support the call to action please submit you electronic signature and details to [info@gn-sec.net](mailto:info@gn-sec.net)

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**UNIDO**

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