3rd Biennial Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Forum
24th – 26th May 2023
Marlborough House
London

THEME

Aligning Ambition and Action towards Implementing an Inclusive Energy Transition

The Commonwealth

OVERVIEW AND BACKGROUND

The global energy landscape is undergoing a significant transformation as countries around the world seek to transition towards low carbon energy systems with increasing share of renewable energy sources in their energy mix. This shift is driven by a number of factors, including concerns about climate change, the need for energy security, and the falling cost of renewable energy technologies.

As part of their commitments under the Paris Agreement, Commonwealth member countries have set ambitious targets for the decarbonization of their energy system towards a net-zero future. Many member countries are implementing measures aimed at accelerating the deployment of renewable energy technologies and supporting infrastructure, including developing national policies/strategies and enacting regulations to unlock investment and incentivize activities in the clean energy sector.

Aligning ambition and action is crucial for achieving a successful energy transition. Setting ambitious targets for the deployment of renewable energy sources, as well as energy efficiency measures, is necessary for a rapid transition to a low-carbon energy system. However, these targets must be supported by concrete actions, such as the development and implementation of policies and regulations, investments in research and development and the deployment of renewable energy technologies. They must also be established in implementable action plans, with results that are achievable and measurable within a specified timeframe. By aligning ambition and action, member countries can ensure that the energy transition not only addresses the immediate concerns of energy security and climate change but also contributes to long-term sustainable development.

This changing landscape which is reshaping energy systems and potentially disrupting existing supply chains, presents both challenges and growth opportunities for Commonwealth countries. In particular, energy transition brings uncertainties for countries whose economies are heavily dependent on fossil fuels in terms of future consumption trends, global investment flows, technology advancements and energy choices. Also, fuelling certain green technologies will require the production of more metals and minerals. It is important then to consider the impact that energy transitions will have on extractive industries and the potential for developing countries to leverage activities in this sector to further the achievement of the SDGs while minimising socio-economic and environmental risks.

OBJECTIVES, STRUCTURE, FORMAT AND EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS

The Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Forum is a biennial convention of senior officials from the ministries, departments and agencies with responsibility for the energy sector across the Commonwealth. The Forum is organized under the Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition (CSET) agenda, a platform for collaborative action amongst member countries to accelerate the transition to low carbon energy systems in a manner that contributes to the achievement of the Paris Agreement on climate change and SDG 7. The CSET agenda is anchored on three key pillars: Inclusive Transitions; Technology and Innovation; and Enabling Frameworks.

The first day of the Forum will focus on global developments in energy transition with presentations from partner organisations and subject matter experts. Day 2 will be a closed-door plenary for delegates from Commonwealth member countries with presentations from different countries on individual pathways, progress and challenges including dedicated sessions focusing on the role of young people in the energy transition. Day 3 of the Forum will consider solutions for unlocking public and private sector funding for the energy transition.

Every delegate is welcome to participate as both a knowledge holder and a knowledge recipient. Participants are encouraged to share relevant experience, policies and case-studies, articulate their knowledge needs and indicate specific areas of interest arising from deliberations during the Forum. Participant contributions are expected to be short, narrative in style and reactive to the discourse and other intervention.

AGENDA

Day 1	
08:15 – 08:50	***Arrival and Registration***
08:50 – 09:00 09:00 – 09:05 09:05 – 09:20	Announcements and Safety Briefing: *Nicholas Hardman-Mountford, Head Oceans and Natural Resources* Welcome remarks: *Paulo Kautoke, Senior Director Trade Oceans & Natural Resources Directorate* Keynote Address: Aligning Ambition and Action for an Inclusive Energy Transition *Baroness Patricia Scotland, KC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth*
09:30 – 12:30	**Session 1: *Implementing a Just & Inclusive Energy Transition***
	With the rest of the world, Commonwealth countries are facing challenges from global warming caused by the increased emissions of greenhouse gases, over two thirds of which is attributable to the energy sector. Long term global energy projections indicate that the world will require substantially more energy as population growth and urbanisation outweigh efficiency gains. More than half of the 733 million people across the globe without access to electricity live in Commonwealth countries and expanding energy access is a priority for these countries. The challenge to society is ensuring that the energy transition progresses in a manner that reflects the goals of justice, equity, and fairness. As the transition happens and society moves towards the 2030 SDG and 2050 climate goals, no one should be left behind. Driving a clean and just energy transition that simultaneously ensures a secure, equitable, and sustainable way forward continues to be a complex problem. Anticipating and managing the impacts of the energy transition on economies, communities and industries must be at the heart of a just transition. This session will reflect on approaches and practices that can be considered by Commonwealth countries and the global community to implement an inclusive transition that fairly distributes the benefits and costs of the energy transition in keeping with the Paris Agreement. Guiding questions: 1. *What are the strategies for a just energy transition? How can countries manage the tangible and intangible impacts of the transition particularly on jobs, communities and industries.* 2. *How should countries address the risks, uncertainties and convert the opportunities arising from the energy transition* 3. *What are some of the approaches countries can adopt to involve more people, diverse communities, and sectors in making fairer and more far-reaching energy transitions happen?* 4. *What are viable energy transition pathways for resource rich countries?*
09:30 – 09:40	Opening remarks/overview by Chair/Moderator - *Barbados*
09:40 – 10:00	Professor Raphael Heffron, *CEPMLP University of Dundee*
10:00 – 10:20	Mikael Melin, *Sustainable Energy for All*
10:20 – 10:40	Dr Lahra Liberti, *Head of the Natural Resources for Development Unit, OECD Development Centre*
10:40 – 10:55	Dr James Henderson, *Oxford Institute for Energy Studies*
10:55 – 11:10	TEA & COFFEE
11:10 – 11:30	Dr Wale Aboyade, *Global Energy Alliance for People & Planet*
11:30 – 11:50	Dr Shavana Haythornthwaite, *Adviser and Head Human Rights Unit, Commonwealth Secretariat* *Presentation – Human rights and a people-centred energy transition*
11:50 – 12:20	Moderated plenary discussions
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 15:30	***Session 2: Scaling up Mature Solutions and Enabling Innovations in Clean Energy Technology***

	If the world is to make the necessary shift to net zero carbon emission pathway consistent with the Paris Agreement, urgent action must be taken to achieve a significant and rapid deployment of clean energy technologies. With policy support, wind and solar PV have seen rapid expansion, while faster progress will be needed in end-use sectors, which accounted for 55% of energy and industry-related CO_2 emissions in 2019. Harder to abate end-use sectors including high heat industrial processes, heavy-duty trucking, shipping, aviation, and chemicals, will need to be overcome by clean fuel alternatives such as low carbon hydrogen and biofuels. Carbon Capture Utilization and Storage (CCUS) may also play a role given its ambition for providing negative emissions and producing carbon-neutral CO2 based e-fuels, subject to transparent monitoring, reporting and verification. Deep decarbonisation will require the deployment of energy storage systems (ESS) to maximise the renewable energy share in the energy mix and in parallel with other technologies such as a hybrid power plant to serve local power needs, distributed, self-contained, power systems. Power-to-X types of technologies such as hydrogen, synthetic natural gas, liquid fuels, or chemicals and other types of synthetic fuels present significant potential for value added and industrial development. The deployment of distributed renewable energy, including off grid systems has seen progress but the pace and scale has been slow. About 733 million people had no access to electricity and 2.4 billion to clean cooking by the end of 2020. Most of that population resides in the rural communities in developing countries in South Asia, Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa, and in remote, isolated areas. Guiding questions: 1. CCUS is one of the range of technologies that promise deep decarbonization of the energy system. In your view what support if any would be required to scale up and maximize the potential of CCUS, while guarding against greenwashing? 2. Low carbon hydrogen is particularly attractive option for hard-to-decarbonise sectors where low-carbon alternatives are scarce. With such a critical role, what barriers and policy actions would be required to promote growth of low carbon hydrogen deployment? 3. Energy storage systems are flexible, dispatchable, and readily deployable at electricity grid level. These attributes make ESS a critical technology to support increasing renewable energy penetration in the energy system. What are generally critical barriers to the deployment of and investment in ESS? What solutions should be brought to bear to address such barriers? 4. Power to X types of technology can contribute to a deep decarbonization of the energy system while creating value added opportunities. What are the key barriers to scaling up the deployment of Power-to-X technology types and what actions would you recommend addressing them? 5. The deployment of clean energy technology solutions to close energy access gap in rural areas has seen some progress. Drawing from this experience and lessons learned, what would you consider to be the key challenges and promising solutions?
13:30 – 13:40	Opening remarks/overview by Chair/Moderator: *United Kingdom*
13:40 – 14:00	Tim Hare, *DNV UK*
14:00 – 14:20	Alex Campbell, *Head of Research and Policy, International Hydropower Association*
14:20 – 14:40	George Li, *Renewable Energy Association UK*
14:40 – 15:00	Julia von Franz, *Alliance for Rural Electrification*
15:00 – 15:15	Moderated plenary discussions
15:15 – 15:30	TEA & COFFEE
15:30 – 17:30	***Session 3: Creating the Enabling Environment for Accelerating the Energy Transition***
	The pace and scale of the sustainable energy transition needs urgent acceleration to meet global goals. The economics of the transition are such that low-carbon technologies are becoming increasingly competitive, risks are better understood and investment in renewable energy is rapidly growing. Also, the shift to a clean energy system is set to drive a huge increase in the requirements for critical minerals as more batteries, solar panels, wind turbines and networks are deployed. It also means that the energy sector is set to emerge as a major force in driving demand growth for many minerals.

	Strong political will and ambition is required to establish and embed the policy, regulatory and economic frameworks required to accelerate the transition and attract finance required to achieve ambitious clean energy targets. How the energy transition will take place and at what pace and scale will be determined largely by the policy, regulatory and governance frameworks, including the incentives that are implemented and the underlying economics of the technologies involved. This session will focus on the policy, regulatory and economic frameworks that can support accelerated action for a transformation of energy systems and achieving national and global goals and targets for the energy sector. Guiding questions: 1. *What policy, regulatory and governance frameworks, including incentives, can countries adopt to accelerate the scale and pace of the energy transition and incentivise investment in clean energy?* 2. *Carbon pricing can play a crucial role in creating the right incentives to enable investment in clean energy transition. What would you consider as viable carbon pricing measures and appropriate applications of such measures for different countries?* 3. *What international frameworks exist (for producers and consumers) to manage the extraction, processing and procurement of critical minerals required for green technologies.* 4. *Energy systems are complex interrelated supply chains that have implications for the design of the policy frameworks for a sustainable energy transition, how can countries achieve an integrated approach to policies and regulation that aligns with, and achieves, global and national policy objectives.* 5. *How can countries translate ambitious 2030/2050 energy goals into practical implementable plans?*
15:30 – 15:40	Opening remarks/overview by Chair/Moderator: *Mauritius*
15:40 – 16:00	Luiza Demoro, *Head Energy Transitions, BNEF*
16:00 – 16:20	Dario Liguti, *Director Sustainable Energy Division, UNECE*
16:20 – 16:40	Mikael Melin, *SEforALL*
16:40 – 17:00	Dan Dorner, *Head of the IEA's Strategic Initiatives Office*
17:00 – 17:10	Dr Brendan Vickers, *Adviser & Head International Trade Policy Section, Commonwealth Secretariat* *Presentation: Applying Circular Economy Principles to the Energy Transition*
17:10 – 17:30	Moderated plenary discussions
18:00 – 19:30	Evening Reception
19:30	*Close of Day 1*

Day 2	
08:15 – 08:50	*Arrival and Registration*
08:50 – 09:00	Announcements and Safety Briefing *Dr Nicholas Hardman-Mountford, Head Oceans and Natural Resources*
09:00 – 09:20	Presentation of Report: *Commonwealth Sustainable Energy Transition: Pathways and Progress 2022 – Alache Fisho & Victor Kitange, CSET Technical Team*
09:20 – 10:50	***Session 4: Knowledge Sharing Sessions - Country Specific Transition Pathways (closed session)***
	Chair/Moderator: Bangladesh
	Member countries have varied progress and experience in integrating low carbon technologies in their energy systems and this presents a significant opportunity for them to share experience and learn from each other. The objective of this session is to facilitate the sharing of information on experience and lessons learnt and capacity building in the implementation of an inclusive and sustainable energy transition in member countries.
09:20 – 09:35	Malawi
09:35 – 09:50	Sri Lanka
09:50 – 10:05	Cyprus
10:05 – 10:20	Trinidad & Tobago
10:20 – 10:35	Fiji
10:35 – 10:50	Dr Daniel Wilde, *Economic Adviser, Natural Resources, Commonwealth Secretariat* *Presentation - Commonwealth Model Carbon Tax Law*
10:50 – 11:10	TEA & COFFEE
11:10 – 12:10	***Session 5: Update from CSET Action Groups (closed session)***
	Chair/Moderator: Alache Fisho, CSET Lead, Commonwealth Secretariat
	Recognizing the critical importance of sustainable energy to economic development and the imperative to transition to cleaner forms of energy Heads of Government at their meeting in 2018 encouraged member countries to *cooperate in accelerating the transition to cleaner forms of energy*. This imperative was heightened in the light of commitments made by Commonwealth governments under the Paris Agreement. The action group model is a member-driven platform under the CSET Agenda that enables sharing of knowledge and experience, innovation and collaborative action focused on the priorities of members of the Action Group. To date 3 Action Groups have been established for Energy Literacy, Geothermal Energy, and a cross cutting Youth Action Group.
11:10 – 11:15	Presentation: CSET Action Group Model, Victor Kitange
11:15 – 11:30	Energy Literacy Action Group - Eswatini
11:30 – 11:45	Geothermal Energy Action Group – Launch - KenGen
11:45 – 12:00	Naadira Ogeer, *Economic Adviser, Natural Resources, Commonwealth Secretariat* *Presentation – Commonwealth Action Group on Reducing Methane Emissions*
12:00 – 12:10	Q&A
12:10 – 12:30	Official Group Photograph
12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
13:30 – 15:10	***Session 6: Knowledge Sharing Sessions (cont'd) - Country Specific Transition Pathways (closed session)***
	Chair/Moderator*: Sierra Leone*
13:30 -13:45	Namibia
13:45 -14:00	St Lucia
14:00 -14:15	Ghana
14:15 -14:30	Mozambique
14:30 -14:45	Singapore
14:45 -15:00	Seychelles
15:00 -15:15	Dominica
15:15 – 15:30	TEA & COFFEE
15:30 – 17:30	*Session 7: "Co-generation": The Role of Youth in an Inclusive Energy Transition*
	The achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG7 on access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy, need to be implemented in a

	manner that is inclusive, equitable and just. With more than 60% of the Commonwealth population under the age of 30, youth in the Commonwealth have vast and under-tapped potential to accelerate sustainable energy transition and inclusive development. In addition, the impact of the energy systems on the future climate and economic development will be disproportionately borne by the youth. As such, the youth across the Commonwealth have a personal stake and a critical role to play in driving the change and innovation required to meet global targets, leveraging their skills and competencies, technical capabilities, and strong networks. This session will be an interactive, youth-led dialogue that is pragmatic, open, and honest, and will focus on the value-add of youth in accelerating and shaping sustainable energy transition, the key challenges in youth engagement, and practical solutions to ensure mutually beneficial collaboration among youth, governments and stakeholders for sustainable energy transition in the Commonwealth. Guiding questions: 1. *How will decisions made today impact the policy and investment options available to youth leaders in the future?* 2. *To what extent are decision-makers factoring in sufficient flexibility and buffers within today's plans and policies, which future leaders may need to build upon and accelerate, to keep pace with intensified climate challenges in the future?* 3. *What are the challenges and barriers of youth empowerment and involvement in the sustainable energy transition, and what short-term and long-term enablers are needed to reduce these barriers?* 4. *What is the unique value-add that youths bring into the sustainable energy transition space, and how can governments and industry best leverage this?*
15:30 – 15:40	Discussion Starters (poll)
15:40 – 15:50	Introduction
15:50 – 15:55	Launch of the Children & Youth Challenge
15:55 – 16:00	Showcase of the Leapfrog Project
16:00 – 16:45	Panel Discussion
16:45 – 17:00	Call to Action
17:00 – 17:30	Networking and Marketplace Presentations of CSET Youth Case Studies
18:00 – 19:30	Youth Themed Evening Reception
	Close of Day 2

Day 3	
08:15 – 08:50 08:50 – 09:00	*Arrival and Registration* Announcements and Safety Briefing *Nicholas Hardman-Mountford, Head Oceans and Natural Resources*
09:00 – 11:05	**Session 8: Unlocking Finance for the Energy Transition**
	Despite global progress in investment related to the energy transition reaching USD 1.3 trillion in 2022, annual investments need to quadruple to remain on track to achieve the 1.5°C Scenario (IRENA's World energy transitions outlook 2022). The disparity in investment flows between the developed and developing countries need to be addressed. While 70% of the world's population reside in developing and emerging countries, investment flows to these countries represented only 15% of global investments in 2020. Investments are also not flowing at the pace or scale needed to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Investments in off-grid renewable energy solutions at USD 0.5 billion in 2021 fell far short of the USD 2.3 billion needed annually (IRENA). In addition, investment has been concentrated in specific technologies and uses, and in a small number of countries, with solar photovoltaic attracting 43% of the total investment in renewables, followed by wind onshore (35%) and offshore (12%). Governments and development partners need to play a more active role in ensuring a more equitable flow of finance. Recognising the limited public funds available globally, the private sector finance (domestic and foreign private sector capital) would be needed to close the large financing gap. Significant investment will be required to sustain a rapid increase in the production of the minerals that form the basic inputs of a low-carbon economy, estimated at over 3 billion tons of minerals and metals (World Bank). Guiding questions: 1. Investment in energy transition has been concentrated in specific technologies and uses. What more needs to be done to ensure investment flows to less mature technologies and beyond the power sector including heating and cooling, transport, energy efficiency and system integration? 2. Significant investment will be required to sustain a rapid increase in the production of the minerals that form the basic inputs of a low-carbon economy. With such a critical role, what are key investment barriers and what actions are needed to address them in order to attract and sustain investment in energy transition mineral? 3. Private sector finance has yet to take full advantage of the opportunities available in sustainable finance including governments' finance for the Green Climate Fund (GCF). How could the private sector finance take full advantage of the opportunities available in the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other public finance sources? 4. Obtaining finance for clean energy projects in particular in developing countries can be difficult when there are short loan tenures or repayment periods, high interest rates, uncompetitive returns on investment, and where collateral is required. What business models and solutions should be implemented to address these challenges?
09:00 –09:20	Overview of session by Moderator/Chair: Solomon Islands
09:20 – 09:40	James Mitchell, *Director at the Center for Climate-Aligned Finance and a Principal at RMI*
09:40 – 10:00	Jonas Rooze, *Head of Sustainability and Climate, BNEF*
10:00 – 10:20	Ronan Hodge, *Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero*
10:20 – 10:40	George Hames, *UK Export Finance*
10:40 – 10:50	Uzoamaka Nwamarah, *Adviser, Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat* *Presentation: Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub*
10:50 – 11:05	Moderated plenary discussions
11:05 – 11:20	TEA & COFFEE
11:20 – 12:45	**Session 9: Review of Forum Deliberations/Way Forward *(closed session)*** Moderator/Chair: *Belize*
11:20 – 12:20	Deliberations:

	- Lessons learned and experience adaptable to national context and potential for collaborative action amongst Commonwealth member countries and partner organisations. - Linkages and priorities for member countries ahead of COP 28. - Progress under the CSET Agenda
12:20 – 12:35	Presentation of Forum Outcomes: Alache Fisho, Lead CSET Agenda
12:35 – 12:45	Closing Remarks – SGO (DSG)
12:45 – 13:45	LUNCH
	Close of Day 3 and End of Forum