AEEP Energy Talks: Fuelling Partnerships: Investing in Clean Cooking for Health, Equality, and Climate in Africa

26 June 2024, 11:00 – 13:00 (CEST); 12:00-14:00 (EAT)

The 15th AEEP Energy Talks on 26 June 2024 (11:00 – 13:00 CEST/12:00-14:00 EAT) on "Fuelling Partnerships: Investing in Clean Cooking for Health, Equality, and Climate in Africa" highlights the critical status of clean cooking in Africa and lessons learnt from Africa-European collaboration on clean cooking solutions and their impact.

Around 1 billion people, or four in every five Africa, rely on highly polluting cooking fuels used in open fires or basic stoves to prepare their daily meals. Advancing clean cooking solutions in Africa has significant potential to reduce health risks, increase gender equality, and achieve economic empowerment. Reducing and eliminating women and children's exposure to household air pollution, cutting down on cooking time, eliminating trips to fetch firewood, and saving time that can be used for productive economic or educational activities can have transformative effects on women, their families, and communities.

Investing in clean cooking in Africa also fights deforestation and reduces carbon emissions, supporting climate change mitigation efforts. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) 110 million hectares of African forest are at risk because of the climatic effects of cooking with charcoal, biomass, and wood. Making clean cooking a priority therefore also supports the achievement of multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

According to estimations by IEA, annual capital investments of 4 billion US dollars would be needed to ensure that everyone in Africa has access to clean cooking by 2030. During the recent Clean Cooking in Africa Summit, in May 2024 in Paris, governments, international organisations, civil society and private sector pledged to make clean cooking a priority and announced USD 2.2 billion in public and private sector funding, financing and investment for clean cooking in Africa. The European Union announced the mobilisation of 400 million euros for clean cooking activities under the Africa-EU Green Energy Initiative. Under the Global Gateway Africa-Europe Investment Package, the European Union has committed to mobilise up to €150 billion in investments for Africa between 2021 and 2027 to accelerate an inclusive, green and digital transition. An example of this is the Regional Clean Cooking Action in West Africa – ReCCAWA (€12 million) that aims to increasing access to clean, efficient, sustainable and affordable cooking solutions in the region by strengthening enabling frameworks, proposing innovative financing and promoting scalable business models.

The AEEP Energy Talks on 26 June 2024 will showcase these and other bicontinental programmes and initiatives to learn from best practice and discuss how to scale up efforts for clean cooking solutions in Africa within the frame of Africa-EU partnerships.

#	Item	Presenter	Min.
1	**Welcome and introduction**	**Co-moderators:** **Mr Johan van den Berg,** Head of Secretariat, AEEP **Esther Haftendorn**, Policy Advisor, AEEP	5
2	**Opening Remarks by AUC and EC**	**Rashid Ali Abdallah,** Executive Director of the African Energy Commission (AFREC) **(TBC) European Commission**	15
3	**Deep dive into the topic:** **Status of clean cooking in Africa**	**Gianluca Tonolo,** Energy Access Lead Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)	15
5	**Panel Discussion part 1: (incl. questions from the audience)**		30

- **Ash Sharma**, Vice President, Special Funds, Head, Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa and Modern Cooking Facility for Africa, Nefco, The Nordic Green Bank
  The Modern Cooking Facility for Africa (MCFA) is a groundbreaking results-based financing programme that aims to scale-up access to higher tier clean cooking solutions. The MCFA operates in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with the goal to provide up to 4 million Africans with access to clean cooking solutions, improving overall health, reducing GHG emissions and increasing economic growth. The MCFA programme is financed by Sweden, Norway and the European Union.

- **Feisal Hussain**, Senior Director of Innovative Finance, Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA)
  The Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) works with a global network of partners to build an inclusive industry that can make clean cooking accessible to all. Established in 2010, CCA is driving consumer demand, mobilizing investment, and supporting policies that allow the clean cooking sector to thrive.

- **Gianluca Tonolo,** Energy Access Lead Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA)
  The IEA works with governments and industry to shape a secure and sustainable energy future for all. Created in 1974 to help co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions in the supply of oil, the IEA today recommends policies that enhance the reliability, affordability and sustainability of energy, including programmes on energy efficiency, clean energy technologies, electricity systems and markets, and access to energy.

- **Khadija Sungeni Mussa,** Programme Component Manager, EnDev Malawi
  EnDev (Energising Development) is dedicated to accelerating access to clean cooking solutions to help deliver on SDG7. EnDev supports the development of markets for modern cooking energy, recognising that clean cooking transforms lives by improving health, protecting the climate and environment, and empowering women. EnDev's initiatives, including the SEE-CC programme, leverage private sector approaches to promote clean and affordable cooking solutions, thereby mitigating carbon emissions, reducing smoke pollution, and promoting economic development and environmental sustainability.

Topics for discussion:

- Current momentum around clean cooking (summit, initiatives, donor commitments)

	• Path to universal access to clean cooking for Africa		
	Successful project examples:	**Ash Sharma**, Vice President, Special Funds, Head, Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa and Modern Cooking Facility for Africa, Nefco, The Nordic Green Bank	10
	Panel Discussion part 2: **(incl. questions from the audience)**		
	• **Ash Sharma**, Vice President, Special Funds, Head, Beyond the Grid Fund for Africa and Modern Cooking Facility for Africa, Nefco, The Nordic Green Bank • **Feisal Hussain**, Senior Director of Innovative Finance, Clean Cooking Alliance (CCA) • **Gianluca Tonolo,** Energy Access Lead Analyst, International Energy Agency (IEA) • **Khadija Sungeni Mussa,** Team Leader and Component Manager, Energising Development (EnDev) Malawi Topics for discussion: • Main challenges and enablers to increase clean cooking access in Africa • Role of international partners to support clean cooking access in Africa		30
5	**Closing remarks**	**Moderator** Summarises key takeaways	5

About the AEEP Energy Talks

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) Energy Talks is a bimonthly webinar series that fosters integrated dialogue by between key stakeholders from Africa and Europe. Since its launch in November 2020 the webinars have delved into transformative energy topics at the intersection of the two continents, fostering knowledge sharing and idea exchange. Previous AEEP Energy Talks have covered topics such as: From ACS to COP28: Unlocking Opportunities for a Synergetic Africa-EU Climate and Energy Future, Sunlight Success: Pursuing African Development Priorities Through a Solar Economy, Utilising Renewable Hydrogen for Decarbonising Value Chains and Promoting Development in Africa and the EU, and Achieving SDG7 in Africa – The 2022 AEEP Report: European Financial Flows on SDG7 to Africa. The outcomes of the AEEP Energy Talks inform the AEEP's knowledge products, including Spotlights and policy briefs, and contribute to the ongoing discourse on sustainable energy development in Africa and Europe.