



## Special Session 5 Role of renewable energy in accelerating recovery in fragile and crisis-affected countries

Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 11:00-12:30 Beirut time

### Background and objective

Sustainable energy is a critical enabler for achieving goals of immediate recovery and longer-term resilience in fragile and crisis contexts. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the Arab region, where countries have experienced expansion of conflicts, droughts, and an unprecedented level of displacement. The ability of communities to cope with and rapidly recover from crisis hinges in many ways on their ability to regain or maintain access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy. But too often countries affected by crisis are unable to bring back online the type of energy systems needed for an effective recovery. In such contexts, decentralized renewable energy solutions are now receiving greater attention, as a way of meeting the needs of affected communities and setting the foundations for sustainable resilience.

Therefore, this session aims to discuss the importance of renewable energy technologies in revamping livelihoods and building resilience of crisis impacted and displaced populations, and opportunities to scale them up. The interactive panel invites global and regional energy leaders and experts to explore barriers and critical drivers to upscale RE in fragile and crisis context countries to enable a just and inclusive energy transition.

### Questions to be addressed

- What is the role of decentralized RE solutions in crisis context countries for enabling a just and inclusive energy transition?
- What are the challenges, opportunities and lessons learned from deployment of decentralized RE solutions in this context?
- What are some of the innovative solutions being used (or that should be used) to close the energy gap?
- How can we provide tailored and targeted RE solutions for communities of similar characteristics such as refugee camps?
- How can an integrated approach enable going beyond energy access and enable productive use of energy resources?
- How can we ensure a gender perspective when understanding energy needs of a community while developing employment opportunities from increased access?
- What are the opportunities to facilitate private sector engagement and investment? What can governments do to actively help?
- What are the business models and the financing mechanisms that can be used to overcome the barriers preventing the greater uptake of small-scale renewable energy for productive use in the Arab region?
- How can we strengthen and/or re-establish institutions to achieve a de-risking environment?
- How can the donor community ensure energy transitions are inclusive and resilient in the face of crises?
- What are some of the measures that need to be in place to ensure the long-term sustainability of the implemented projects?

### Moderator

- **Ms. Radia Sedaoui**, Chief, Energy, ESCWA

### Opening Remarks

- **Ms. Tehmina Akhtar**, Senior Strategic Advisor, UNDP

### Panelists

- **Mr. Mark Gibson**, Operational Lead, Global Platform for Action on Sustainable Energy in Displacement Settings (GPA), UNITAR
- **Mr. Hamzeh Yasin**, Regional Programme Manager, SIDA
- **Mr. Talal Barakati**, National Officer, UNHCR
- **Ms. Hazir ElHaj** Professor, researcher and independent consultant, Sudan University of Science and Technology
- **Mr. Hassan Maaz**, Electrical Engineer, Rafic Hariri University Hospital

This Special Session will be organized as a hybrid event. To participate over Zoom, please [register here](#).

Those physically present at the UN House can attend the session in Committee Room II (B1 floor).



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