



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK



PERMANENT MISSION  
OF NORWAY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STIMSON



## **POWERING PEACE: Toward a Renewable Energy Future for UN Peace Operations**

11:30 to 13:00, 28 January

### **Concept Note**

UN peace operations are primarily deployed in fragile countries that face the world's lowest energy access and financing levels, some of the highest energy costs, and greatest vulnerability to climate change. This event – hosted by the Missions of Norway and the United Arab Emirates and Powering Peace (a partnership between Energy Peace Partners and the Stimson Center) – presents the latest evidence from the field on options to reduce peacekeeping missions' reliance on high-cost diesel in favor of cleaner, more effective sustainable energy infrastructure that benefits host communities. Alongside the launch of the report *Shifting Power: Transitioning to Renewable Energy in United Nations Peace Operations*, the event also assesses next steps in the UN Secretariat's commitment to 80 percent renewable energy usage by 2030, notably through the second phase of the UN Department of Operational Support's (DOS) Environment Strategy for Field Missions.

The event will also kick-off a series of workshops and panels in 2021 and 2022 on renewables implementation in specific security contexts and broader UN peace operations.

### **Background**

Diesel accounts for a significant share of global peacekeeping costs and the vast majority of UN greenhouse gas emissions. Diesel supply lines are also a significant security vulnerability, both subject to attacks and severe weather events and disasters.

The cost of solar power has fallen more than 80% in the last ten years and is now cheaper on average than diesel in every country in which UN peace missions operate, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency. Other renewable sources like hydropower and wind also compete with diesel generators on cost. The favorable economics, supply chain advantages, and new UN policy goals have prompted UN peace missions to begin implementing renewable energy projects. Early successes and innovative models have emerged in South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Somalia, among others.

Recent climate and environmental plans now commit the UN to reducing emissions as part of more effective operations – notably the UN Secretariat Climate Action Plan (UNSCAP) and phase two of DOS' Environment Strategy for Field Missions. The UN Secretariat's 80% renewables target, announced last September, hinges largely on implementation in peace missions.

[Powering Peace](#) has led independent evaluations of energy supply options for UN operations. The

new report, *Shifting Power: Transitioning to Renewable Energy in United Nations Peace Operations* (January 2021), looks at the UN policy ambitions for more effective peace operations, including a shift to more renewable energy, and then tracks implementation in the field, including in DRC, South Sudan, Mali, Lebanon, Kosovo, Darfur, CAR, and Somalia. Energy Peace Partners and the Stimson Center have previously published the first energy report on DRC/MONUSCO.

## Agenda

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 11:30 to 11:40 | Welcome and objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mona Juul, Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations</li> <li>• Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations</li> </ul>  |
| 11:40 to 11:55 | The United Nations Environment Strategy for Field Missions – the path to 80% renewable energy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Atul Khare, Under Secretary General, DOS</li> <li>• Selwin Hart, Assistant Secretary-General and Special Advisor to the Secretary-General, Climate Action</li> </ul>   |
| 11:55 to 12:05 | <i>Shifting Power</i> : report highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Holt, Vice President, Stimson Center</li> <li>• Dave Mozersky, President, Energy Peace Partners</li> </ul>  |
| 12:05 to 12:35 | Perspectives from the field <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Swan, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)</li> <li>• David Gressly, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Operations and the Rule of Law in the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)</li> </ul> |
| 12:35 to 13:00 | Audience Interventions and Q&A  |
| 13:00          | Wrap-up and next steps  |

## Audience profile

The event is targeted at

- Member States, particularly members of the UN Security Council; host countries of UN peace missions; troop-contributing countries; and members of the Groups of Friends on Environmental Management in the Field, Sustainable Energy, and Climate Change
- UN field mission leadership and staff
- UN staff involved in UNSCAP, the Environment Plan, and energy/climate issues
- Broader peace operations community

## Contacts

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