



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



PERMANENT MISSION
OF NORWAY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STIMSON



IRENA
International Renewable Energy Agency

Peacekeeping and Renewable Energy in Somalia

Virtual Event, Thursday 21 April, 2022

9:00 to 10:15 am NY time / 15:00 to 16:15 CET / 17:00 to 18:15 UAE time

Somalia and its international peacekeeping missions face some of the highest energy costs in the world, with rates of energy access of less than 40% nationally, and only 11% in rural areas. Ongoing security and governance challenges in the country further complicate Somalia's energy sector, which is among the most decentralized in the world. Partially as a result, Somalia is emerging as a pioneer in the transition of peacekeeping missions from diesel generators to renewable energy through a new private-sector financed business model, while also helping to power host communities.

This virtual event – hosted by Norway and the United Arab Emirates, in collaboration with Powering Peace (an initiative of Energy Peace Partners and Stimson Center) – is part of the series on evaluating energy options in peacekeeping as the UN aims to shift 80% of its energy supply to renewables by 2030. It also occurs in conjunction with the UN, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and Member State initiative to support missions in assessing their energy supply options.

This session will launch the new Powering Peace [report](#) *Powering Ahead: The United Nations and Somalia's Renewable Energy Opportunity*, the first comprehensive assessment of the Somali energy landscape around peacekeeping missions. The event will discuss key themes from the report: the role of Somalia's energy sector in the broader political and conflict dynamics of the country, efforts by the UN mission to transition its energy supply to renewables, and a new public-private business model that can offer a positive legacy for host communities and Somalia's energy sector.

The model – based on the experience of the Kube Energy solar project under construction in Baidoa – moves UN energy procurement budgets from imported diesel to locally produced renewable energy. As a large, stable customer, the UN through its electricity procurement provides a revenue stream to attract private finance for new renewable energy infrastructure – which can also sell power to local businesses and consumers and will outlast the mission.

Audience profile

The event is targeted at:

- Member States, particularly members of the UN Security Council and those with interest in Somalia; host countries of other 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 technical staff
- UN staff involved in UNSCAP, the Environment Strategy, and energy/climate issues
- Broader peace operations and peacebuilding community

Agenda

9:00 to 9:15	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria Holt, Distinguished Fellow, Stimson Center (moderator) <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amb. Dr. Nawal Al Hosany, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the International Renewable Energy Agency • Hans Olav Ibrekk, Special Envoy for Climate and Security, Norway
9:15 to 9:30	<p>Report presentation and scene-setter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdi Aynte, Managing Director, Laasfort Consulting Group (lead author) • Eugene Chen, Visiting Scholar, NYU Center on International Cooperation (lead author) • Dave Mozersky, President, Energy Peace Partners
9:30 to 9:50	<p>Stakeholder perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Swan, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia • Christian Saunders, Assistant Secretary-General for Supply Chain Management, UN Department of Operational Support • Mads Uhlin Hansen, CEO, Kube Energy
9:50 to 10:10	<p>Q&A with all participants</p>
10:10 to 10:15	<p>Wrap-up and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Press, Director of Planning and Programme Support, IRENA • Victoria Holt, Distinguished Fellow, Stimson Center

Registration and virtual access

Please register at <https://bit.ly/3E2I6X6>. The meeting link will be provided close to the date of the event. A recording of the event will also be made available on the YouTube channel of the UAE Permanent Mission to the UN (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsQeIoAhjpfm5j14CFG26uQ/videos>).

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