



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



STIMSON



## Peacekeeping and Renewable Energy in South Sudan

Virtual Event, Tuesday 11 April, 2023

11:00am to 12:15 pm NY time / 18:00 to 19:15 EAT / 19:00 to 20:15 UAE time

South Sudan has been locked in a cycle of conflict since shortly after gaining independence in 2011. The country's energy sector is directly connected to the dynamics of the conflict, from the economy's near total dependence on oil production to the reliance on imported diesel for access to electricity. Creative solutions could help South Sudan break this cycle, and in at least one area – renewable energy – unique opportunities exist for the government and its international and national partners to support the development of a new, more sustainable, and widely accessible electricity infrastructure.

Only 7.2% of South Sudan's population has access to electricity according to the World Bank, making it the least electrified country in the world. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is one of the largest peacekeeping missions in the world. It relies overwhelmingly on imported diesel to power its operations, an expensive and dirty option that is subject to many of the same challenges plaguing the country - including long and inhospitable supply chains, and taxes imposed on diesel and other goods at armed checkpoints. This leads to extremely high energy prices for both the UN and South Sudanese citizens. UNMISS has had some limited success with its adoption of renewable energy systems "inside the fence", and it is working on a new public-private sector approach for a new renewable energy project in Malakal. There has been little activity in South Sudan's electricity sector outside of the capital, Juba. Given the sizable energy footprint of UNMISS – representing roughly 20 percent of total consumption in the country – its efforts to transition to renewable energy represents a unique and compelling entry point to catalyze new clean energy projects around the country, and extend energy access benefits to local 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) – will discuss South Sudan's experience and potential next steps in leveraging renewables for cost and operational benefits, as well as a positive legacy from mission presence in host communities.

The event 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 also notably include a presentation of the new Powering Peace [report](#) *Renewable Energy and the United Nations: A Green Spark for Peace in South Sudan*,

comprehensive assessment of the South Sudan energy landscape around UNMISS, and the opportunities from the UN’s clean energy transition.

### Audience profile

The event is targeted at:

- Member States, particularly members of the UN Security Council and those with interest in South Sudan; 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

11:00 to 11:15	<p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Holt, Director, Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College (moderator)</li> </ul> <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ameirah AlHefeiti , Deputy Permanent Representative of the UAE to the UN</li> <li>• Hans Olav Ibrenk, Special Envoy for Climate and Security, Norway</li> <li>• Elizabeth Rolando, Chief of Office of the UN Under Secretary General for Operational Support</li> </ul>
11:15 to 11:30	<p>Report presentation and scene-setter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flora McCrone, Visiting Fellow at the LSE's Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa</li> <li>• Eugene Chen, Director of the Prevention and Peacebuilding Program NYU’s Center on International Cooperation at NYU</li> <li>• Dave Mozersky, President, Energy Peace Partners</li> </ul>
11:30 to 11:50	<p>Country-level perspectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guang Cong, UNMISS, Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General</li> <li>• Joseph Africano Bartel, Undersecretary of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of South Sudan</li> <li>• Rutu Dave, Senior Energy Specialist, Team Leader “Leave No One Behind Program”, World Bank</li> </ul>
11:50 to 12:10	<p>Q&amp;A with all participants</p>
12:10 to 12:15	<p>Wrap-up and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victoria Holt, Director, Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College (moderator)</li> </ul>

### Registration and virtual access

Please register at <https://uaeun.org/event/uae-norway-renewables-peacekeeping/>. 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>).

### **Contacts**

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