

THE EAST AFRICAN SUSWATCH E-BULLETIN

A Monthly from the East African Sustainability Watch Network founded by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD), Tanzania Coalition for Sustainable Development (TCSD) and SusWatch Kenya

INFORSE Side Event Urges COP26 to Embrace the Global 100% Renewable Energy Target, Local Solutions to Poverty Reduction and Development in National Climate Plans



Participants during the INFORSE / SusWatch / INSEDA side event at COP26 in Glasgow (photo: INFORSE)

The International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) Network Partners organized a side event at the UN Climate Change Conference COP 26, hosted by the UK in partnership with Italy that took place on November 5, at the Loch Lomond auditorium in the Scottish Event Campus. The Event was titled ‘Local Climate Solutions & Eco-Village Development, 100% RE in NDCs, East Africa, South Asia, and Europe’ had presentations from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Europe, UK, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Speaking at the event, Mary Swai (TaTEDO – Centre for Sustainable Energy Services in Tanzania) made a presentation on the Catalogue of Local Solutions in East Africa. She noted that East African Partners have long time experience in developing and promoting practical climate local solutions that solve energy, water, food insecurity challenges for local communities. The Catalogue is therefore one of the output of the ongoing *East African Civil Society for Sustainable Energy and Climate Action (EASE CA)* Project, and is available online, offline and in print out.

Mary underscored that potential local solutions have for poverty reduction, reduced inequality, improved health, reduced Green House Emissions, job creation and thus fueling economic recovery in the aftermath of COVID19 pandemic. ‘Some of the solutions highlighted in the Catalogue includes improved cook stoves that have an efficiency of up to 55% which is important for the many communities that heavily rely on biomass, whose supply is fast decreasing in East Africa’, she pointed out. ‘It is therefore important to expand investment in local climate actions for inclusive and sustained recovery, enhance resilience, reduced emissions and sustainable development’, Mary emphasized.

Kimbowe Richard (UCSD) presented INFORSE East Africa’s position to COP26. Presenting on ‘INFORSE - East Africa Policy work – Connecting Local Actions to Regional and Global Climate and Sustainable Energy Discussions’ he noted that the EASE CA project works to strengthen networking and participation of East African CSOs; participation in national processes / strategies including legislation, policy reviews (Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and so on); give a voice to CSOs to influence global framework for national strategies including climate financing mechanisms and NDCs (reviews and reporting), Global Stocktake among others. He highlighted the local action by Joint Energy and Environment Projects (JEEP) - INFORSE East Africa Member, whose experiences have been documented in the Catalogue of Local Sustainable Solutions to boost dissemination of such local solutions in Uganda and East Africa. ‘The INFORSE - East Africa statement to COP26 is urging for a 100% Renewable Future, and calls for: dropping of any unsafe solutions, including Nuclear power, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS) geo-engineering technique - but fast tracking the implementation of the Paris Agreement commitments; prioritization of decentralized solutions to boost development rather than over centralized schemes; and prioritization of funding to climate adaptation and mitigation with local, sustainable solutions’, he stressed.

To justify that 100% Renewable Energy is possible, Norbert Nyandire (SusWatch Kenya) made a presentation from Kenya, based on a report prepared by SusWatch Kenya for a scenario of up to 2050. He noted that Kenya has an ambitious target of achieving 100% access to modern cooking services by 2028 including efficient cook stoves for wood and charcoal, household biogas, Liquefied Petroleum Gas stoves, and others. ‘Renewables accounts for more than 70% of the power generation in Kenya, but production varies from year to year with hydropower production that is low in dry years’, Norbert noted.

In view of the above, Norbert made recommendations calling for investment in modern energy solutions with energy efficiency and cleaner, renewable energy taking into account gender equality; diversification of the energy mix into different renewables to reduce over-reliance on finite resources; more budget allocations to fully finance the exploitation of clean and renewable energy sources that are locally available like geothermal, wind, solar and biogas; managing the cost of energy through optimal combination of energy efficiency and affordable renewable energy should be a priority; and avoidance of expensive energy solutions as nuclear power; making biomass use for energy sustainable with a combination of efficient biomass use, efficient charcoal production, increased supply with plantations etc.; making transport energy sustainable with use of electric transport, based on renewable electricity for instance, small electric vehicles like scooters, e-bikes, three-wheel taxis on electricity; raising public awareness of more efficient energy use, including energy efficiency measures, local use of renewable energy, and new technology developments

Gunnar Boye Olesen, *SustainableEnergy* (Denmark) and INFORSE-Europe made a presentation on 100% renewable energy in Europe with energy efficiency and energy sufficiency. He noted that they work for 100% Renewable Energy through the Paris Agreement Compatible (PAC) Scenario working for reduction of 65% Reduction of Emissions in 2030 and full decarbonisation in 2040 and 100% renewables 2045. He pointed out the Danish Scenario found that it is possible to generate power mainly from renewables throughout the year, which shows that fast transition to renewable energy can have good economy, if stranded costs (coal and gas plants for example) are avoided.

On energy sufficiency – the use of only the energy needed rather than affluent lifestyle, Gunnar noted that INFORSE Europe proposes a range of actions in transport, housing and electricity use, among others. ‘We can speed-up fossil fuel phase out, if we continue the same development of renewable energy. With a set of energy sufficiency measures, we can in Denmark cut fossil fuel use and emissions around one third on top of existing plans within 10-15 years’ time’ he underlined. ‘As we need to phase fossils out fast, we should include energy sufficiency in addition to renewables and energy efficiency in the energy transition, to make it faster, cleaner, more sustainable’, he concluded.

Paul Allen, Centre for Alternative Technology, Wales (UK) that has been developing solutions for almost over 50 years, outlined the benefits of national scenarios towards net zero for any country across the globe. He emphasized the importance of ‘power-down’ demand for buildings, transport, energy & land-use given that technology to ‘Power-up’ 100% clean energy exists for UK, but can also be applicable to other economies. He noted that scenario can drive change in terms of catalyzing new thinking, inspiring new research and helping re-imagine local areas, thinking across silos and powering a positive vision.

Sanjiv Nathan Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association, India highlighted how Eco Village Development (EVD) as a climate solution can help in the race against the climate crisis. EVD consists of a package of eco-friendly, low-carbon, green technologies within villages which can be easily implemented and replicated. They also help in mitigation of climate impact or adaptation of new solutions to build climate resilience which focuses on local people (people who need it the most), especially women, poor, marginalized, and weaker sections and covers energy, water, agriculture, livestock, fodder, food processing (drying) and provides sustainable livelihood by income generation. Niraj Shrestha Centre for Rural Technology, Nepal outlined the Eco-Village Development Planning Process. Dumindu Herath Integrated Development Association, Srilanka presented on mainstreaming the EVD in Srilanka while Sohel Ahmed, Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh highlighted the importance of EVD as Key Climate Solutions, also in NDCs. **You can access the full presentations made and video recording made from the INFORSE side event from: <https://inforse.org/cop26.php3>**

INFORSE East Africa Reacts to the COP26 Outcome and the Road to COP27 in Egypt



On November 25, 2021, INFORSE East Africa held a webinar to share experiences and discuss the outcome from the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow as well as to look ahead in preparation for COP27 in Egypt. The webinar was attended by more than 25 participants.

The main outcomes of COP26 as seen by INFORSE East Africa were summarized by Nobert Nyandire (SusWatch Kenya) and Gunnar Boye Olesen (INFORSE secretariat): The Glasgow Climate (Emergency) Pact, finalizing of the Paris Rulebook, agreements on the way forward and actions outside the official Process. Gunnar and Nobert emphasized that, “Parties were hesitant to call the Glasgow Climate Pact an ‘Emergency’ Pact but it is important to recognize the emergency nature of this pact”.

Under this Pact, they noted that developed countries were urged to double adaptation finance until 2025 while all countries were asked to accelerate efforts to the “phase down” unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. In addition, countries recognized that we are not on the way to 1.5degC with emissions to increase 13.7% from 2010 to 2030, and therefore emissions should reduce by 45%. In addition, countries agreed to consider improvements in climate strategies every year; progress will be included in an annual synthesis report on NDCs. This will be used at a new annual high-level ministerial round table on pre-2030 ambition. On loss and damage, they noted that developed countries and others are urged to provide financing. However, no new fund was established for loss and damage, but the countries agreed to strengthen the Santiago network with information exchange on how to manage climate disasters.

The Paris Rulebook was finalized in terms of an International exchange of emission reduction certificates, both with bilateral cooperation and with a certificate market; while Rules for Extended Transparency Framework was agreed with one set of tables for all, but with higher demands for developing countries and for countries engaged in exchange of certificates. “But one of the loopholes in the Paris Rulebook is that rich countries can buy reduction certificates instead of enforcing or implementing reductions themselves”, they cautioned. Looking ahead, an evaluation of efforts every year (report and ministerial meeting) and a Global Stock take (GST) will now start and run 2022-2023, while A Glasgow 10-year work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment, coordinated by the UNFCCC Secretariat, focus on Education; Training; Public Awareness; Public access to information; Public participation; International Cooperation was agreed upon.

Mary Swai made presented on the difference made for civil society / INFORSE to participate in COP26, noting that there were several challenges due to precautions set by the host (UK Government) due to COVID19, and no exhibitions allowed. She however noted that INFORSE was able to organize a side event with other partners from East Africa and South Asia, participate in several other events, joined demonstrations organized by others and to engage national delegations from East Africa.

Dr. Sixbert S. Mwanga - Executive Director (Climate Action Network Tanzania) that is hosting CAN Africa, noted that COP27 in Egypt as a follow up from Glasgow, *ought to be more open to CSO voices both inside and outside the negotiating rooms*. Mwanga also pitched for early preparations for COP27, building relationships within CSOs in Africa and beyond. “CAN Africa is making sure we plan ahead and we have started by building relationships and partnerships for instance with CAN-Arab and CAN-Europe through the Europe-Africa Summit”, he added. He further informed the meeting that CAN Tanzania as host to CAN Africa is planning a CSO meeting on COP27 in Arusha around March 2022. Participants raised other issues on how to make COP26 outcome trickle down to the local level, countering the aggressive nuclear industry presence at COPs when CSOs space is shrinking, securing CSO visibility at COP27, and capacity building for CSOs on renewable energy issues.

INFORSE East Africa is part of INFORSE - a global network of more than 160 NGOs working for sustainable energy solutions to protect the environment and to reduce poverty. INFORSE East Africa Coordinators are: Kenya Sustainable Environmental Development Watch (Kenya), TaTEDO (Tanzania) and Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (Uganda). **Read INFORSE on COP26 Outcome: https://inforse.org/doc/INFORSE_on_COP26_Outcome_NOV19_2021.pdf**