

Background Brief

COP22 SIDE EVENT: “CARBON SHIFT - ARAB FUTURE ENERGY 2030” 17 NOVEMBER 2016 (1:30 – 2:30 PM)

BACKGROUND

RCREEE in collaboration with UNDP through the Arab Climate Resilience Initiative (ACRI) and the Islamic Development Bank Group (IDBG) is pleased to jointly host the “**CARBON SHIFT - ARAB FUTURE ENERGY 2030**” side event at COP 22.

The Arab region hosts the world’s highest levels of solar radiation and with many spots of high wind speeds, two major assets for shifting to a new sustainable energy future. The Arab Renewable Energy Strategy (2013-2030) sets ambitious targets for scaled-up levels of solar, wind and other renewable energy in the overall energy mix. Progress is starting to be registered, as expressed in the new 2016 Arab Future Energy Index report which ranks 20 countries in the Middle East and North Africa across a set of 28 key indicators assessing the investment climate for renewable energy development, with the top five ranked countries Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, UAE and Palestine for their efforts in scaling up renewable energy. Many other countries showed substantial progress, reflecting the fact that in the last few years, Arab countries have taken a number of initiatives to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency investments.

At the global level, the UN General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015, with Goal 7 focusing on affordable and clean energy. The adoption of the 17 SDGs, their 169 targets and 251 indicators provides the basis for implementing the 2030 sustainable development agenda that includes the Paris Agreements on climate change. The implementation of Goal 7 highlights the need to monitor progress towards global targets of doubling the rate of energy efficiency, achieving universal energy access and substantially increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. One key aspect of this process is developing indicators to measure progress towards these goals, especially at the regional and country levels.

The League of Arab States (LAS) Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) working in collaboration with UNDP’s Arab Climate Resilience Initiative (ACRI) initiated the development of the Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX) in 2013 as a flagship pan-Arab monitoring and tracking tool. Since the implementation of SDGs started in January 2016, AFEX, as a monitoring tool, has gained new meaning in the Arab region as a platform for measuring progress made towards Sustainable Development Goal 7 and the implementation of the LAS Renewable Energy Strategy (2013-2030).

The side event will launch the AFEX 2016 report and present many of its findings, including overview by top performers from IDBG member countries in the region and share lessons on ways to de-risk scaled-up investments into low-carbon solutions. It will highlight the remarkable contribution AFEX is having as the first dedicated instrument developed by the region and for the region to monitor and analyze sustainable energy competitiveness across the Arab states.

LOGISTICS AND FORMAT

This moderated event will take place over 1 hour. RCREEE will present the findings of AFEX 2016 followed by discussion among panelists on the future of renewable energy transition in the region. The moderator will ask guiding questions on the nexus between sustainable energy and the future of development in the region. This will

be followed by an open conversation-style discussion, with questions to the group by the moderator intended for discussion. After 40m discussion, floor will be open for 20m questions with audience and media.

Agenda: (1:30 – 2:30 p.m.)	Date: 17 Nov 2016
1:30-1:32 (2 mins)	Moderator Welcome and Introduction : Kishan Khoday Regional Team Leader, UNDP
1:32 – 1:37 (5m)	Opening Remarks Prof. Savas Alpay, Group Chief Economist, IDB (tbc)
1:37 – 1:42 (5m)	Opening Remarks Kishan Khoday, Regional Team Leader, UNDP
1:42 – 1:47 (5m)	Opening Remarks Nandita Parshad, Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
1:47 – 1:57 (10m)	AFEX 2016 Launch Presentation Dr. Ahmed Badr, RCREEE Executive Director
1:57 – 2:12 (15m)	Panel Discussion 1. Morocco: Mr. Said Mouline the CEO of AMEE (ex ADEREE) and the Head of the PPP Pole of COP22 2. Jordan: Eng. Ziad Jebril Sabra, Advisor to the Minister, Director of Renewable Energy Department, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources 3. 3. Egypt: Ms. Nefesa Hasan, General Manager for International Relations, New and Renewable Energy Authority
2:12 – 2: 27 (15 m)	Q and A (Audience with RCREEE and panelists)
2:27 – 2:30 (3 mins)	Closing Remarks UNDP: Kishan Khoday, Regional Team Leader, UNDP ISDB: Prof. Savas Alpay, Group Chief Economist, IDB (tbc)

Contacts:

Abdullateef Bello (abello@isdb.org) IDBG Headquarters, Chief Economist Complex
Stephen Gitonga (stephen.gitonga@undp.org, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States, Climate Change and DRR Team
Ahmed Badr, Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Efficiency (RCREEE) (ahmed.badr@rcreee.org)

About AFEX:

Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX) is a policy assessment tool that measures the progress of Arab countries towards sustainable energy development through a fact-based and consistent benchmarking analysis. In this way, AFEX provides a simple yet comprehensive picture of the countries' progress that also motivates internal change processes at governmental level. The assessment is based on compilation and analysis of detailed, country specific data according to the set of pre-defined indicators. Countries are ranked under more than 25 indicators that illustrate key energy market dimensions including energy prices, strategies, and policies, institutional capacities, and investments. AFEX is published annually and consists of two components: AFEX Renewable Energy and AFEX Energy Efficiency. This year, AFEX ranks 20 Arab states and provides tailored recommendations for countries to help improve their transition towards sustainable energy pathways. Countries of assessment include: Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Qatar, UAE and Yemen.

AFEX's greatest strength is its ability to rank countries according to their progress, which provides a means of recommending policy actions that can achieve regional and national sustainable energy goals. It provides governments with information that helps them plan and monitor the impacts of their policies. For example, the 20

AFEX member governments can use the index to track progress from year to year and adjust policies and plans accordingly. AFEX is helping to create conversations about questions that had hitherto gone largely unexamined in the region: How do governance and institutional arrangements affect the energy sector? How can policies help de-risk investments and lead to scaled up financing? How can energy subsidy reforms in the region evolve? AFEX's index is helping governments measure their progress toward implementing new national energy strategies. This is crucial, given that many LAS governments have announced truly ambitious goals. It helps the countries track exactly how much progress they've made toward realizing these goals, which can both help governments identify what has worked and what hasn't, as well as help other sectors hold them accountable to what they've pledged.

About RCREEE

Since its inception in 2010, RCREEE has been committed to its mission of enabling the uptake of renewable energy and energy efficiency practices in the Arab region. As a regional, intergovernmental organization, RCREEE aims to pursue its mission through research and analysis, technical assistance, capacity building and private investments promotion. Through the Arab Future Energy Index (AFEX), its flagship analytical benchmarking tool, RCREEE follows and monitors Arab countries' in their progress towards deployment of sustainable energy practices. RCREEE is committed to Sustainable Development Goal 7 and supports the aim to achieve universal access to sustainable energy across the world. Moreover, the Center supports inclusive solutions-oriented approach by linking governments, private sector, businesses and civil society together to enable the right conditions for global universal access to sustainable energy. The Arab region has vast potentials in renewable energy and energy efficiency resources that could bring forth important benefits to appease the region's important economic, social and environmental challenges. To unlock these potentials, the right conditions for policies, regulations, implementation capacities and market transformation need to take place. By carefully monitoring and benchmarking Arab countries on efforts for sustainable energy deployment, RCREEE aims to contribute to the establishing of right conditions for private investment in sustainable energy in the region.

About UNDP

UNDP works in nearly 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. UNDP help countries to develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results. This is a critical time for the world. At UNDP, we see this period as a huge opportunity to advance the global sustainable development agenda. Last year, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to continue the work of the Millennium Development Goals. UNDP is working to strengthen new frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction and climate change. We support countries' efforts to achieve the new Sustainable Development Goals, or Global Goals, which will guide global development priorities for the next 15 years. UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas: sustainable development, democratic governance and peacebuilding and climate and disaster resilience. In all our activities, we encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women, minorities and the poorest and most vulnerable

About IsDB

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is an international financial institution established pursuant to Articles of Agreement done at the city of Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 21st Rajab 1394H corresponding to 12 August 1974. The Inaugural Meeting of the Board of Governors took place in Rajab 1395H (July 1975) and the IDB formally commenced operations on 15 Shawwal 1395H (20 October 1975). The purpose of the Bank is to foster the economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities individually as well as jointly in accordance with the principles of Shari'ah i.e., Islamic Law. Its mission is to promote comprehensive human development, with a focus on the priority areas of alleviating poverty, improving health, promoting education, improving governance and prospering the people. The membership of the IDB stands at 57 countries spanning many regions. The basic condition for membership is that the prospective country should be a member of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), pays the first instalment of its minimum subscription to the Capital Stock of IDB, and accepts any terms and conditions that may be decided upon by the Board of Governors. The Bank has evolved from an entity to five members called "IDB Group" comprising the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), the

Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC).