ACTION NETWORK HARNESSSES THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

The Energy Compact Action Network launched on 4 May, supported by UN-Energy, brings together governments, businesses and other civil society partners who have made voluntary commitments to over 200 Energy Compacts, in order to direct investment, know-how and resources to help achieve the commitments made. At the launch, four coalitions of Energy Compacts were showcased to demonstrate how countries, cities, businesses, youth and other partners can join forces through the Action Network, to help governments fulfil their commitments to clean energy for all.

NIGERIA GAINS SUPPORT FOR ELECTRIFICATION

Sustainable Energy for All, UNDP and Husk Power Systems are among the partners who announced they are answering Nigeria’s call for support in achieving its energy goals. Sharon Ikeazor, Nigeria’s Minister of Environment, shared her country’s Energy Compact and its commitment to net-zero emissions across the country’s economy by 2060. Other targets include bringing electricity to 25 million people by 2023 using solar home systems and mini-grids, which will create 250,000 new jobs. Asmou Jibril, of Nigeria’s Federal Ministry of Environment, said that her country’s 2060 goal for carbon neutrality was originally announced at COP 26 and was approved in February 2022. Highlighting support as part of their own Energy Compacts, Glenn Peace-Oroz of SEforALL discussed a geospatial platform to identify households that need electricity access, and Stephanie Held of UNDP said that Nigeria would be one of the partners for its Africa Mini-grid Programme. Manoj Sinha, CEO of Husk Power Systems, will build on its six operational mini-grids in Nigeria to have 500 operating by 2026, and 5,000 by 2030.

THE CITY OF SANTIAGO DE CHILE TO PARTNER WITH ENEL TO ELECTRIFY TRANSPORT AND HEATING

The city of Santiago de Chile and the multinational energy company Enel, along with the Universidad de Desarrollo in Chile, announced that they will work together through a coalition Energy Compact to achieve the city’s 2030 vision to increase the end-use of electricity for transport and heating, shifting away from more polluting fuels, and to increase the share of solar energy in the region’s electricity generation. Claudio Orrego, Governor of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago de Chile, said the Energy Compact is a tool to make the city more resilient and sustainable amid a climate-energy crisis brought on by 13 consecutive years of drought. Francesco Starace, CEO of Enel, said the Compact aims to electrify 100% of the bus fleet by 2030, provide charging points for electric cars, and replace 18,000 woodfired stoves by 2024, all of which will significantly reduce pollution.
A work plan to strengthen the role of women in a just and inclusive energy transition was launched by partners in a Gender and Energy Coalition. Sheila Oparaocha of ENERGIA said sustainable energy should enable women to create wealth, going beyond subsistence. She said women must be positioned as decision-makers and investors in the energy sector. Paul Mbuthi of Kenya’s Ministry of Energy said the Compact will help his government address issues where energy programmes have lacked women’s perspectives. Mollie Johnson, representing the Government of Canada, said the Prime Minister has given the government a mandate to advance inclusion in the energy sector. Shakti Ramkumar of Student Energy noted that it is difficult for young women to find financing for their energy projects and to enter and stay in the clean energy sector. Cecilia Ugaz Estrada of UNIDO said that women make up only 32 per cent of the renewable energy workforce overall, and called for women and men to have equal chances to lead, participate in and benefit from sustainable energy solutions.

The Government of Namibia and the multinational corporation Acciona Energía announced that they are joining a coalition of governments, businesses and others who have made Energy Compact commitments to develop green hydrogen as a renewable energy source. Tom K. Alweendo, Minister for Mines and Energy, announced that Namibia has joined the green hydrogen compact catalog, adding that Africa has the potential to be a world supplier of green hydrogen and calling for common policies and regulations. Francesco La Camera, Director-General, IRENA, noted that green hydrogen is key to meeting climate change targets by decarbonizing shipping, aviation and cities. Rafael Mateo, CEO of Acciona Energía, said building a value chain for green hydrogen requires incentivizing the development of electrolyzers and other technologies for production, and increasing demand.

Click here to view the Energy Compact Action Network brochure

For more details on the launch event, and to see the summary and videos: www.un-energy.org