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Abstract

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

**“Solar Energy for Less Developed Countries
in Sub-Saharan Africa”**

The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) is was established by the United Nations (UN) General assembly in 1966 (resolution 2152 (XXI) of 17 November 1966) as the specialized agency of the UN to foster 'industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability'.

With the mandate to 'promote and accelerate sustainable industrial development in developing countries and economies in transition and to work towards improving living conditions in the world's poorest countries by drawing on its combined global resources and expertise'.

The Industrial Development Board (IDB) is a policy-making organ within the UNIDO structure that comprises 53 Member States. They are elected on a rotational basis for four years. IDB reviews the implementation of the work programme, the regular and operational UNIDO budgets and makes recommendations to the General Conference.

The committee is going to discuss the issue of solar energy for less developed countries in Sub-Saharan Africa along the following core elements:

Status of Sub-Saharan Africa's energy sector - energy shortage as a major concern for development

1. The potential of photovoltaic technology (especially for rural development)
2. The potential of solar thermal energy
3. The limitations of photovoltaic and solar thermal energy technology in Sub-Saharan Africa:
 - a. Political and legal barriers
 - b. Technical barriers
 - c. Financial barriers
 - d. Optimum Balance of renewables

Based on the above, the committee will recommend measures to be taken to overcome the limitations of solar energy technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa, especially focusing on:

- a. Ideal pace of progress and ratio of Renewables in the climate-benefits-costs nexus
- b. Innovative financing of the solar energy projects
- c. Transfer of knowledge and technical assistance
- d. Fostering private investment
- e. Mobilisation and coherent usage of public funds