**COP24 United Nations Side Event on SDG 7**

**Clean and Affordable Energy for Sustainable Urbanization and Development**

**DATE: 5 December 2018, 18:30 – 20:00**

**VENUE: Room G6 (Bug), International Congress Centre (MCK), Plac Sławika i Antalla 1, 40-163 Katowice**

**BACKGROUND**

The global trend towards urbanization and the rise of megacities presents an opportunity to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” (SDG 7). The global urban population is expected to grow by around 1 billion by 2030, with an increasing proportion living in dense mega-cities in Asia and, to a lesser extent, Africa and Latin America. According to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, by 2000-2006 urban areas already accounted for 67-76% of global energy use and 71-76% of global carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from final energy use. This share is expected to continue to rise. In the future, existing and emerging megacities must become increasingly modern, smart and sustainable by integrating pathways for sustainable urban energy supply—combining clean energy generation and storage options—with pathways for demand-side efficiency and pathways for sustainable mobility. Given the very different energy and environmental challenges facing megacities across the world, a range of solutions will be needed.

The Side Event will explore the transitions needed to provide reliable access to clean energy in rapidly developing urban centers and smart, green megacities. Energy solutions will be explored including energy efficiency improvements, integration of renewable energy sources, and modernization and transformation of industrial zones into repurposed business incubators and re-training centers for emerging circular economies. This event will seek to bridge between SDG 7 and SDG 11 and synthesize lessons-learnt among stakeholders responding to urban energy challenges.

**OBJECTIVE**

The event will offer a forum for UN country partners and representatives from cities to describe challenges posed by rapid urbanization, the resulting growth in energy demands, and inadequate energy infrastructure, and provide the opportunity to discuss ways to address these challenges. The main objectives of the side event are to describe:

1. Upgrade of infrastructures to ensure an adequate and secure energy supply, reduce energy consumption (energy efficiency), and increase energy access in major cities.
2. The role of integrated energy solutions to create synergies in the supply of electricity and other energy carriers in megacities.
3. How optimal energy planning, policies, and data analysis can help countries to overcome barriers and facilitate development of climate-smart solutions for urban centers.

**FORMAT**

The session will host a panel discussion with UN country and industrial partners, and others. Guiding questions, clean-energy pathways posters, and SLIDO/MENTI used to increase participant interaction.

**PROGRAMME**

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| **Time (min)** | **Description** |
| 18:30 – 18:50 | **Welcome and Keynote:** Mr. Jean-Baptiste Burtscher, Valeo |
| 18:50 – 19:20 | **Panel discussion (2 min. intro/speaker, then 3 guided/moderated questions)**  *Moderator: Mr. Jean-Baptiste Burtscher, Valeo*   * Mr. Zheng Mingguang, SNERDI * Mr. Helge Gottschling, Nuclear4Climate * Mr. Alberto Troccoli, World Energy & Meteorology Council * Ms. Joan Krajewski, Microsoft |
| 19:20 – 19:50 | **Q&A:** the floor will open for questions and comments from the participants. |
| 19:50 – 20:00 | **Closing:** the moderator will summarize the discussion and close the session |

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

The panel discussion will be formulated around the following guiding questions:

1. *How can the socially responsible green energy transition, including adaptation of the existing units, be made, in terms of the energy infrastructure, to ensure energy supply and access in megacities? (e.g., EE, Demand-Side, eMobility, ICT solutions)*
2. *How can industry and city utilities be integrated with future electrical and non-electricity supply systems to form an integrated energy solution? (e.g., integrated energy systems, AI)*
3. *What forward-looking urban energy planning, policies, and incentives for private investment are needed for achieving low-carbon/low-pollution in cities? (e.g., integrated energy/climate data)*