**Accelerating the Just Energy Transition:**

**Decarbonizing Industrial Value Chains with Clean Hydrogen**

Date: 4th of December 16:45-18:15 Gulf Standard Time

Location: SE Room 9 – Blue Zone

**Session Overview**

In alignment with the priorities outlined by the COP28 Presidency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), jointly recognizes the need to reduce GHG emissions whilst enabling inclusive growth and just transition that leaves no one behind. The proposed side event will address how clean hydrogen could accelerate the Just Energy Transition through decarbonizing industrial value chains and promoting socio-economic growth. In accordance, the side event will outline the following key enablers and highlight the need for fostering collaborative action:

* Harmonize classification schemes and standards that enable international hydrogen trade.
* Create local hydrogen clusters and domestic value chains and markets within producer countries.
* Mobilise finance and de-risking investment for developing industry infrastructure.
* Discuss on the importance of securing sustainable supply of critical raw minerals to create resilient value chains for clean hydrogen.
* Facilitate international cooperation to bring together clean hydrogen producer and end-use countries.
* Explore business case for blending hydrogen with natural gas and how gas infrastructure could accelerate development of clean hydrogen projects.

**Agenda (75 minutes)**

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| 16:45-16:55 | **Opening remarks*** Mr. Gunther Beger, Managing Director of the Directorate for SDG Innovation and Economic Transformation, United Nations Industrial Development Organization
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| 16:55-17:00 | **Setting the scene*** Mr. Dario Liguti, Director of Sustainable Energy, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
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| 17:00-18:00 | **Panel discussion****Moderator:** * Mr. Matthew David Wittenstein, Chief of Section for Energy Connectivity, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific

 **Speakers:*** Dr. Lutz Schäfer, Deputy Head of Division 423 Energy, Urban Development, Mobility, Infrastructure, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) of Germany
* Ms. Petra Schwager, Chief of Climate and Technology Partnerships Division, United Nations Industrial Development Organization
* Mr. Alessandro Izzi, Director and Head of Equity, Growth Capital and Project Finance Department – EU Operations Directorate, European Bank of Investment
* Mr. Masatsugu Yoshioka, Executive Director, New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization
* Ms. Alicia Eastman, Co-Founder and President, InterContinental Energy
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| 18:00-18:10 | Interactive QnA |
| 18:10-18:15 | **Closing remarks*** Mr. Stefano Signore, Head of Unit of Climate Change and Sustainable Energy, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), European Commission
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