

UNDP, Sahara Group target Energy Access to 10 Million Households in Africa

The UNDP and the Sahara Group have unveiled the Africa Renewable Energy Forum to boost access to sustainable energy for 10 million households in Africa

NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, September 24, 2019 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Sahara Group have unveiled the Africa Renewable Energy Forum to boost access to sustainable energy for 10 million households in Africa through alternative energy initiatives and interventions.

Launched at the margins of the ongoing 74th UN General Assembly in New York, the Africa Renewable Energy Forum is expected to bolster ongoing partnership between UNDP and the Sahara Group that aims to create access to clean and affordable energy in Africa.



Sahara Foundation's Babatomiwa Adesida, GMD, Sahara Power Group, Kola Adesina, H.E. DSG, United Nations, Amina Mohammed, Pearl Uzokwe and Bethel Obioma at the launch of the Africa Renewable Energy Forum in New York

The forum will serve as a platform for policy discussions, multi-stakeholder collaboration and funding towards implementation of tailored renewable energy solutions across the continent.

“

Renewable energy is still in its infancy in Africa At Sahara Group we believe that interventions like the UNDP-Sahara partnership will enhance productivity and shared prosperity in Africa.”

Kola Adesina, Group Managing Director, Sahara Power Group

Ultimately, the platform will galvanise the political momentum needed to record significant progress through strong [partnerships](#), effective regulation and mutual accountability.

The event had senior officials from both organisations in attendance including, Ahunna Eziakonwa, Regional Director and Assistant Secretary General for UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa, Kola Adesina, Group Managing Director, Sahara Power Group, Pearl Uzokwe, Director, Governance and Sustainability, Sahara Group, Bethel Obioma, Head Corporate Communications, Sahara Group and Babatomiwa Adesida, Private Sector Engagement Specialist, Sahara Foundation.

Africa has the highest percentage of untapped hydropower potential in the world, with only 11% utilisation capacity. Whilst the global electrification rate reached 89% in 2018 and 153m people gained access to electricity (WB Stats, May 2019), the biggest challenge remains in the most remote areas globally and sub-Saharan Africa in particular, where an estimated 573m people are

not connected to grid power.

With over 600 million Africans having no access to electricity, Ahunna Eziakonwa said the continent urgently needs to embrace renewable energy sources to sustainably connect the poorest and hardest to reach households. "Access to energy will enhance the cause of poverty alleviation and also yield huge benefits for education, healthcare, production, and socio-economic development. The UNDP-Sahara partnership is extremely crucial as it will provide a model for engaging a wide range of stakeholders to address the continent's energy challenge in line with the SDG framework," Ahunna stated.

Kola Adesina said the initiative has the potential to create over one million jobs in Africa as the continent continues its march towards achieving the 2030 SDG Agenda. "Renewable energy is still in its infancy as far as Africa is concerned. We need unrelenting awareness initiatives to inspire a mindset shift to renewable energy in Africa with the various governments, private sector and development agencies leading the charge. At Sahara Group we believe that interventions like the UNDP-Sahara partnership will enhance productivity and shared prosperity in Africa."

Bethel Obioma
Sahara Group
+234 1 279 3811

[email us here](#)

Visit us on social media:

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <http://www.einpresswire.com>

Disclaimer: If you have any questions regarding information in this press release please contact the company listed in the press release. Please do not contact EIN Presswire. We will be unable to assist you with your inquiry. EIN Presswire disclaims any content contained in these releases. © 1995-2019 IPD Group, Inc. All Right Reserved.