



VIENNA ENERGY FORUM 2017

9 – 10 May

**Side Events @
Vienna International Centre**

11 – 12 May

**High-level Plenaries @
Hofburg Palace**

Vienna, Austria



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Sustainable energy for the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement

Building on the success of the previous Forums, the VEF 2017 will focus on “Sustainable energy for the implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement”. The VEF 2017 will allow a rich dialogue on key issues of the energy debate to move the global energy agenda forward and to move from declarations of intention to tangible action on the ground. The Forum will provide a platform for an exchange of information and knowledge on key energy issues to facilitate policy-making, investment decisions, and individual choices and behaviours. The discussions will be action-oriented and relevant to economic and financial obstacles faced by many countries at present to promote sustainable energy for all, SDGs and climate action.

The VEF 2017 will be the fifth such event and will take place from 9 May to 12 May 2017 in Vienna providing a platform for a rich dialogue on key issues of the energy debate and helping to find ways to strengthen the means of implementation. The Forum will also stress the need for more international cooperation and highlight the role that can be played by the UN and multilateral banks, partners and agencies in the field of sustainable energy, nexus, innovation ecosystem and technology transfer areas, including mechanisms of private sector engagements.





VIENNA ENERGY FORUM 2017

The Vienna Energy Forum 2017 will bring together over 1600 participants, including heads of State, ministers, energy experts, representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, academia, civil society and the private sector.

VEF 2017

The Vienna Energy Forum 2017 aims to contribute to the successful implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. It will serve as a platform for discussing and highlighting the importance of the linkages between climate and development as well as the synergies among the SDGs, and the importance of joint and integrated approaches for successful implementation. The Forum will explore the role of innovation in opening up new avenues for achieving SDG 7 “Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all” and related SDGs. The implementation of these goals and of the Paris Climate Agreement calls for an unprecedented global transformation process that extends far beyond the energy sector. Innovation is urgently needed to drive this transformative agenda.

Key questions to be addressed at the VEF 2017:

- ⌘ What is the role of energy in the three SDGs that are critical to developing countries in the fight against poverty – food security, water, and health?
- ⌘ What are the main drivers of drivers of sustainable urbanization across key sectors such as water and infrastructure?
- ⌘ What are the potential opportunities and challenges of innovative technologies in achieving the transformation required to implement the SDGs and the climate agenda?
- ⌘ What are the areas of greatest potential in energy efficiency, and what can be done to accelerate action and investment in energy efficiency, the ‘hidden fuel’ that has some of the most promising prospects to advance the goals of climate security and sustainable growth?
- ⌘ Which successful business models and approaches can be used to unlock finance from available sources and to support sustainable energy investments and implementation?
- ⌘ How can existing enabling frameworks be adapted or enhanced to promote and sustain innovative technologies, business models and financing mechanisms for energy investments?
- ⌘ What is needed to make energy systems more resilient and adaptive to change, while ensuring that the transition towards clean energy remains affordable, particularly for low-income populations?

Legacy of VEF

The first Vienna Energy Forum was held in 2009 as a joint initiative by the Austrian Government, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, with the aim of exploring how energy can contribute to meeting global developmental challenges. Two insights formed the backdrop to this decision: firstly, in order to create a sustainable economy, it is necessary to transform energy systems; and secondly, there are strong linkages between energy supply and virtually every aspect of inclusive and sustainable development.

Drawing on the expertise of its co-organizing institutions, the anchoring in the energy hub Vienna, and the mutually beneficial networking with other key energy initiatives and institutions, the VEF has successfully spearheaded the global debate on sustainable energy for inclusive development and has become a high-level Global Forum for policy makers, experts and practitioners in the field of energy for inclusive development.

The first four Forums focused on different perspectives of this discussion and have been major contributors to the design of the SEforALL goals and to Vienna's becoming a global energy hub:

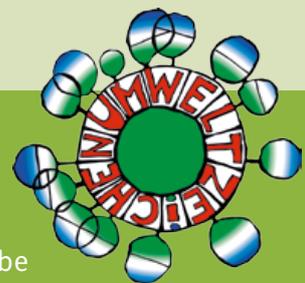
Women's Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming

Gender equality means creating equal opportunities for women and men by allowing them to contribute equally in economic, political, social and cultural spheres. Gender equality is a goal in its own right, but it also forms an integral part of inclusive and sustainable development and is vital to the achievement of the SDGs as well as to the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions.

This year, gender dimensions will be present throughout the planning, execution and follow-up phases of the forum. This implies consistent integration of gender perspectives in each panel and the event programme, a strong focus on gender balance of speakers and participants, as well as a reflection of gender perspectives in advocacy and communication efforts. At the same time, specific events are planned focusing on gender dimensions as a contribution to the international discussion surrounding the mutually reinforcing goals of sustainable energy and empowering women.

Green Event

The Vienna Energy Forum 2017 will be going through a certification procedure according to the criteria of the Austrian Eco-label for Green Meetings. Therefore, we encourage participants to make their stay in Vienna as green as possible, for instance with regards to choice of accommodation, transport and waste management.



Special Events

VEF is also a platform to celebrate and recognize leading sustainable energy initiatives. Special events will be organized to showcase UNIDO's flagship energy initiatives including the Global Cleantech Innovation Programme (GCIP) and the Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN). Exclusive previews and launch events will also take place during the VEF, and participants will enjoy priority access to new information and latest global trends on the sustainable energy scene.



Side Events

On 9-10 May, twenty-one Side Events will be organized with UNIDO's key partners and energy thought leaders to facilitate in-depth discussions on the most pressing issues surrounding the sustainable energy challenge. The topics have been carefully selected and designed so that the key messages of the side events may inform discussions and provide questions during the High-level Plenaries taking place on 11-12 May.



Vienna City Tour: “Sustainable Cities & Industry 4.0”

Vienna's high quality of life is grounded in a people-centred approach to smart city and urban technologies. Sustainable practices and policies implemented by the City of Vienna, as well as Austria's first pilot plant on industry 4.0, will be showcased during a half-day tour, and participants will experience industrial technologies for smart and sustainable urban development coming to life in Vienna.



VIENNA ENERGY FORUM 2017



1500+
PARTICIPANTS



100+
COUNTRIES



60+
HIGH-LEVEL SPEAKERS



8
HIGH-LEVEL PLENARIES



21
SIDE EVENTS



8
LAUNCH EVENTS



50+
IGOs AND NGOs



15+
EXHIBITORS



VIENNA ENERGY FORUM 2017

For further information on
the Vienna Energy Forum, please
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