



**PRESS RELEASE – 29 MAY 2021**

## **ACCESS Coalition launches its Regional Node for East Africa**

[ACCESS Coalition](#) has formally launched its regional node for East Africa, the Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG), firmly establishing the Coalition's footprint in the region. Located in Nairobi, Kenya, KCCWG is one of three regional nodes that ACCESS Coalition has in Sub Saharan Africa, and has doubled up as the host of the Coalition since 2018, when the secretariat relocated to Africa from Europe.

Participants of the [virtual launch that was held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2021](#) were from several parts of sub-Saharan Africa and North Africa including Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia; Ghana and Nigeria in West Africa; Zimbabwe and Malawi in Southern Africa and Egypt in North Africa representing the UN, governments, donor groups, civil society, think tanks, academia and the private sector.

"The launch is a first of its kind since the Coalition ramped up its engagement in sub-Saharan Africa where some of the highest cases of energy poverty exist. [75% of the 770 million people without access to electricity are found in Africa,](#)" said the ACCESS Coordinator, Ms. Jacqueline Kimeu, adding that there are two additional launches anticipated in West and Southern Africa, in Ghana and Zimbabwe respectively, where CSOs will self-organize and carry out joint advocacy to accelerate achievement of [SDG 7 by 2030](#).

The Chairman of the East Africa Node, [Kenya Climate Change Working Group](#), Mr. John Kioli, indicated that while [East Africa hosts over 82 million people, half of them do not have access to electricity](#). This in turn, he said, affects education and the health sector as cold storage of Covid-19 vaccines among other vaccines is dependent on availability of energy in health centres. Some activities planned in East Africa are [Voluntary National Reviews](#) for SDG 7 by energy CSOs ahead of the High-Level Political Forum, tracking of AfDB investments in the East Africa region and sensitizing CSOs on the [Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy](#) which tracks energy sector policies and regulations in 138 countries across the world.

Mr. Fred Ishugah from the [East Africa Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency](#) indicated that the centre has identified gaps in policy and capacity in addition to access to finance and awareness - all of which are important to increasing energy access to populations. He indicated that the centre is a convenor that actively engages and cooperates with partners like the Coalition to create understanding, collaboration and impetus for actions that will lead to implementation of [SDG 7](#).

Dr. Pacifica Ogola, the Director of the [Climate Change Directorate in Kenya's Ministry of Environment and Forestry](#), called for harnessing of Africa's energy potential as energy is an enabler for development. Dr. Ogola indicated that in Kenya, clean cooking and the degradation of land require additional effort in the country's Nationally Determined Contributions in order to curb climate change.

Remarks from Mr. Dan Marangu, Director of Renewable Energy at the [Ministry of Energy in Kenya](#) focused on the policy and legislative milestones of the Ministry like the Energy Act, 2019, the Energy Efficiency Strategy and the Bioenergy Strategy which are all crucial to meeting the commitment the government made of achieving clean cooking Kenya by 2028, two years ahead of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). He reiterated the commitment of the Ministry to working with stakeholders to ensure there are fiscal incentives for renewable energy resources so that they can become accessible to populations.

Dr. Yohannes Hailu of the [UN Economic Commission for Africa](#) (UNECA), and the event's keynote speaker, highlighted that the last three or four Africa assessments by UNECA found that many member states may not meet the [SDG 7 targets](#) as rapid population growth overshadows progress made. "For UNECA, it is important to accelerate action and expand partnership for implementation. We would like to see emerging business models and lesson sharing more so during this [Decade of Action](#)," he said. "We appreciate the work ACCESS Coalition has been doing in bringing stakeholders together to dialogue and support each other and are keen to hear more about the role of CSOs in accelerating the achievement of SDG 7 in the continent," he finished.

Access the [launch report here](#) and view the [event recording here](#).

### **About ACCESS Coalition**

Founded in 2014, Alliance of civil Society Organizations for Clean Energy Access ([ACCESS Coalition](#)) is a global coalition of over 80 organizations working at the local, national, regional and international levels advocating for



people living in poverty to have access to safe, reliable and affordable energy, and for environmentally sustainable and efficient energy systems globally. ACCESS has three regional nodes in Sub Saharan Africa, [Kenya Climate Change Working Group](#) in East Africa, [Strategic Youth Network for Development](#) in West Africa and [Action 24](#) in Southern Africa.

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