CALL FOR APPLICATION

**REGIONAL PROGRAM
ENERGY SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
KAS - REMENA**

KAS REMENA Experts' Meeting

Opportunities and Risks of Digitalization for Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation and Resource Security in the MENA Region

December 19-21, 2018, Rabat - Morocco

Program Overview

Organiser:	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung - REMENA (Regional Program on Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa), based in Rabat, Morocco
Meeting:	Debate over opportunities and potential risks of digitalization with regards to Climate Change Mitigation/Adaptation and Resource Security in the MENA Region
Application Form	https://goo.gl/forms/MmELvQAzjkGsJsE83
Eligibility:	This meeting is open to researchers, policy makers, academic and civil society activists from the region and Europe.
Venue:	December 19 to 21, 2018, Rabat – Morocco
Cost:	All the participation cost (round trip economic flight ticket, hotel and food, visa fees) for the Experts' Meeting will be covered for the invited participants by the organisers.

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The Regional Program on Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa – Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung is very pleased to launch its call for the KAS REMENA Experts' Meeting on Opportunities and Risks of Digitalization for Climate Change Mitigation and Resource Security in the MENA Region, which will take place from December 19 to 22, 2018, in Rabat, Morocco.

Context:

As in most parts of the world, digitalization is more and more overtaking every aspect of life in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region as well, increasing the interaction between supply and demand sides and opening up opportunities for smarter, more integrated resource supply services. It also promises to help improve the safety, productivity, efficiency and sustainability of energy systems, given that renewables and energy efficiency contribute to many Arab countries' energy access, affordability, and security and decarburization goals.

But digitalization also raises questions of security, privacy and economic disruption, especially in a region mixed with youth aspirations and political as well as economic transformations. With digital technologies changing so rapidly, there are many unknowns about how technology evolves, and policy needs to catch up with such a fast changing dynamics. In this context, governments in the MENA are doing every effort to ensure a smooth transition into digitalized economic and governance models. However, to date these policies are being developed and implemented separately, be it across sectors or across borders. And as the scale and pace of deployment grows, such an approach risks suboptimal or more expensive outcomes.

Themes:

It is in this context that the expert meeting comes to interrogating the state of Opportunities and Risks of Digitalization for Climate Change Mitigation and Resource Security in the MENA Region, by answering four main questions:

1. What role can policy makers play in designing and implementing regional frameworks for Smart Network and Digitalization fostering the Energy Transition in the MENA region?
2. How can Digitalization contribute to cost reductions and higher system integration for renewable energies?
3. What operational considerations should be considered for responding to the threat of cyber-attacks on critical resource infrastructure?
4. How can an efficient and safe interoperability of a Digital Agenda be implemented across national borders of the MENA region?

Objectives:

The meeting invites researchers, policy makers, academic and civil society activists from the region and Europe to contribute their expertise to the debate over the opportunities and potential risks of digitalization with the objective to generate ideas and recommendations that will be fused in a position paper document to be published as a meeting's proceeding. The sub themes of the meeting will particularly seek to:

1. Exchange and understand MENA countries' experience of separate energy efficiency and renewable energy policy making, particularly in light of technology, digitalization and energy market developments;
2. Discuss and exchange how current models of policy making, governance, market design and regulation need to adapt to ensure that energy efficiency and renewable energy policies deliver overall energy system outcomes as cost effectively as possible;
3. Identify shared elements around which MENA countries may continue to exchange and develop analysis, including how civil society and academia may support policy makers and government to develop optimal pathways.

Structure:

This is an expert meeting that welcomes actors and players from academic, governmental and civil society of the fields in three main arrangements:

1. Panel Discussions (PD);
2. Round Table (RT) discussions; and
3. Working Group (WG) sessions.

Besides the plenary speeches that will be delivered by national and international personalities and politicians, there will be 4 working group sessions. Each working group will focus on one of the four questions highlighted above. Toward the last day of the meeting, each WG will present the outcomes and recommendations generated from their WG's discussions. These recommendations will be collected and integrated in order to be published as a meeting's proceeding by the organizers, and it will be disseminated to various national and international relevant stakeholders.

Outputs:

On the last day of the meeting, each working group will have to submit a synthetic position paper (3 pages) that develops on one of the four aforementioned questions/themes and suggests recommendations.

Schedule and Venue:

The meeting will be held in Morocco's capital city of Rabat. It will start on the evening of December 18 with a welcome dinner of all the participants and finish on the evening of December 21 with a closing dinner. Therefore, international participants will arrive on December 18, and leave on December 22, 2018.

Working Languages:

The main working language will be English, interpretation into French will be provided.

Costs:

The organizers will cover all expenses related to the participation of the event. This includes:

1. **Transportation:**
   Round trip economy ticket for international participants; for national participants travel reimbursements will be delivered under reception of their travel tickets and original invoices.
2. **Accommodation & Meals:**
   Both hotel and meals will be provided to the participants during the period of the meeting.

How to Participate:

Interested participants should submit their application on the following online application form: https://goo.gl/forms/MmELvQAzjkGsJsE83

Please make sure to have the following information/documents at hand:

1. short biography (150 words maximum);
2. updated short CV (3 pages maximum);
3. short abstract of your contribution to the experts' meeting (200 words maximum); and
4. passport data page.

Further Information:

For further inquiry do not hesitate to contact the organizers at the email address: info.remena@kas.de.