

CALL FOR APPLICATION

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

KAS REMENA Experts' Meeting

Sustainable Finance and Green Economy: Tackling Climate Change and Resource Shortage in the MENA Region

December 15-17, 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 current state, future trends, and potential challenges of the adoption and implementation of sustainable finance and green economy in the MENA region
Application Form	https://goo.gl/forms/5ABFSdJiWSYWpF043
Eligibility:	This meeting is open to researchers, policy makers, academic and civil society activists from the region and Europe.
Venue:	December 15 to 17, 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.

In its efforts to foster dialogue and collaborations among various regional actors in the field of sustainable private investments, and to help connect the notion of green finance with the specific needs of the MENA region's economic models as well as societal aspirations, the Regional Program Energy Security and Climate Change Middle East and North Africa of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS-REMENA) organizes a Regional Experts' Meeting on Sustainable and Green Finance: Tackling Climate Change and Resource Shortage in the MENA Region, from 15 to 17 December 2018, in Rabat- Morocco.

Context:

Walking from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 along with the Paris Agreement toward the adoption and realization of the 2030 Agenda of climate adaptation, the global community has entered a new era in which sustainable finance occupies a crucial role. The countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) have made important strides, and have been witnessing an increasing level of activity on climate change adaptation and mitigation, notably investment in renewable energy infrastructure with private sector, domestic and international nuances. Many countries are investing in wind and solar energy at a large scale, for both domestic use and export. Morocco, for instance, has expressed an ambitious intent to promote renewable energy technology and diversify its energy mix. In this context, it has established a number of programs to develop wind and solar energy technology, both of which are receiving substantial finance from the World Bank administered Clean Technology Fund, with additional co-finance from the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the German KfW, among others.

Yet, the region, on the whole, is still in the very early stages of green economy development. We have seen significant governance reform initiatives and the establishment of new requirements, but this has not yet extended to the environmental and social components. An implementation gap in environmental, social, and governance policy continues to prevail; and climate change poses one of the single greatest threats to the future of development in the Arab region. But these challenges also present an opportunity to innovate and foster the transition to a more resilient future in line with the vision set forth in the 2030 Agenda. Innovative bottom up solutions are emerging; if scaled up, they can help sustain communities and ecosystems towards 2030 and beyond. Addressing these issues, among others, related to green finance model adoption and mitigating implementation gaps will be important to bolster MENA's sustainability credentials and preparedness for a more complete environmental friendly financial and economic model.

Themes:

In this context, this meeting will tackle salient points relevant to the current state, future trends, and potential challenges of the adoption and implementation of sustainable and green finance in the MENA region. More particularly, the attending experts along with invited policy and decision makers from the region and Europe will contribute their expertise in four main themes:

1. The state of Sustainable Finance and Green Economy in the MENA region: Current State & Good Practices.
2. Incentives for and challenges faced by companies and private sector to venture for sustainable investments in the MENA region.
3. The missing linkage between private and public sector as well as civil society actors in fostering an aspiration for the implementation of Sustainable Finance and Green Economy models in the region.
4. Roles for Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Sustainable Responsibility in the acquisition of a sustainable finance approach in the MENA region.

Objectives:

This three day expert meeting will bring together experts, policy makers and academics from North Africa, the Middle East and Europe to exchange knowledge, and to discuss and answer the four questions above. The aim is to generate ideas and recommendations that will be fused in a position paper document to be published as a meeting's proceeding.

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 14 with a welcome dinner of all the participants and finish on the evening of December 17 with a closing dinner. Therefore, international participants will arrive on December 14 and leave on December 18, 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/5ABFSdJiWSYWpF043>

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.