



Concept Note: Scaling Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa (EELA): From Regional Success to Continental Impact

Side Event at the 2nd Africa Climate Summit (ACS2)

10 September 2025

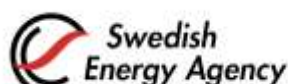
Time:	60 min
Location:	Addis International Convention Center (AICC)
Format:	High-level panel + interactive discussion (by invitation only, ~25–30 participants)
Organizers:	UNIDO, Sida, Regional Sustainable Energy Centres (EACREEE, SACREEE, ECREEE)
Partners:	AUDA-NEPAD, AFREC, RECs, national ministries, private sector and financial institutions

Background and Rationale for the EELA Side Event

The Energy Efficiency for Sustainable Livelihoods in Africa (EELA) programme, funded by Sida and implemented by UNIDO and ECREEE/SACREEE/EACREEE, is proving that energy efficiency in appliances, productive-use equipment, and industry is a catalyst for green jobs, lower energy bills, and climate-resilient economic growth.

EELA's regional approach — harmonising Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS), strengthening compliance frameworks, and building ESCO markets — is delivering tangible results in the SADC, EAC, and ECOWAS regions. The programme is now evolving into a continental initiative, aligning with Agenda 2063, the ACS2 vision, and Africa's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). At a time when Africa's electricity demand is expected to double by 2040, scaling energy efficiency can:

- Cut peak demand and defer costly generation investments
- Free up electricity for productive uses and industrial growth
- Reduce GHG emissions in line with national and continental climate targets
- Strengthen local manufacturing and repair sectors
- Boost productivity by lowering the cost of energy for large industries and SMEs





Objective of the Side Event

The EELA side event will:

- Showcase **EELA's regional achievements** and national impacts in SADC, EAC, and ECOWAS.
- Present the **EELA Africa expansion framework** and invite partners to shape its design.
- Identify **synergies with continental priorities** (ACS2 Declaration, AU Green Recovery Action Plan, AfCFTA).
- Identify **policy and legislative levers** to accelerate industrial energy efficiency adoption
- Explore **financing and partnership opportunities** to sustain and scale the initiative.

Agenda

Time	Segment	Lead / Speakers
0–5 min	Opening remarks	Rana Ghoneim (UNIDO) (TBC), H.E. AU/AUDA-NEPAD Rep (TBC)
5–15 min	EELA journey: From regional pilots to continental opportunity	UNIDO + Regional Centre Directors
15–45 min	High-level panel discussion on scaling energy efficiency	Ministers, DFIs, private sector
45–55 min	Partner commitments & opportunities	Key donors, industry leaders
55–60 min	Closing remarks & next steps	UNIDO & Sida (TBC)

Guiding questions

- How can **MEPS harmonisation** be expanded to all African regions and linked to AfCFTA trade rules?
- What are the barriers that are slowing the proliferation of ESCOs across the continent and what can be done to overcome these?
- What are the **most scalable business models** for ESCOs and off-grid productive-use energy efficiency?
- How can national industrial policies embed energy efficiency targets within their frameworks?
- How can **local manufacturing and repair industries** be better integrated into EE value chains?
- Which **financing instruments** can best de-risk energy efficiency investments for SMEs and industries?
- How can EE strategies also **advance gender equality and youth employment**?



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Expected Outcomes

- Shared understanding of **EELA's continental scale-up plan**.
- Identification of **priority countries and sectors** for early expansion.
- Commitment from **partners and financiers** to support the Africa-wide roll-out.
- Agreement on **regional–continental coordination mechanisms**.

Target participants

- EELA focal points
- Ministers/Directors from African ministries (Energy, Industry, Trade)
- Regional Economic Communities (EAC, SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA)
- Development finance institutions (AfDB, IFC, GCF, bilateral DFIs)
- Industry regulators, standards and testing bodies
- Industry associations & ESCO networks
- Civil society and youth organizations

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