

**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

**Vienna, Austria
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Contribution of Germany

to the CSTD 2018-19 priority theme on ‘The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities, including through the contribution of citizen science’

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Stellungnahme: 22. Sitzung des CSTD-Sekretariats Priority Themes

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Kommentierung

Theme 2: The role of science, technology and innovation in building resilient communities

1. Can you give examples of projects/policies in your country aimed at using science, technology and innovation (STI) to build resilient communities? What are the main challenges confronted while trying to implement these projects/policies in your country or region?

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) launched the initiative Green People's Energy for Africa dedicated to support BMZ's partner countries in the development of a decentralized, renewables-based energy system. Goals of the initiative are amongst others are to develop decentralized energy structures in rural regions with the help of municipalities, cooperatives and private-sector investments; and build local capacity of African municipalities to provide affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.

Due to the initiative's approach of supporting decentralized energy structures based on renewable energy technologies, the initiative supports the independence and resilience of communities. Decentralized, renewable energy foster resilience e.g. from shocks on fuel markets and provide energy security.

Concrete actions in the course of the initiative will be amongst others to establish energy partnerships between African and German Communities, and to support African countries in creating suitable framework for people's energy cooperatives. Thereby, the rapid deployment of off-grid solutions for energy access is promoted.

For more information on the initiative see:

https://www.bmz.de/en/publications/type_of_publication/strategies/Strategiepapier395_06_2_017.pdf

2. Can you provide examples of policies/projects/initiatives aimed at using/promoting citizen science to build resilient communities? Do these projects incorporate a gender approach? What are the main challenges confronted in implementing these projects?

The implementing phase of the initiative has not started yet

3. What are the actions that the international community, including the CSTD, can take to leverage the potential of STI in building resilient societies, including through the contribution of citizen science? Can you give any success stories in this regard from your country or region?

Actions that should be taken by the international community to facilitate the development of a resilient energy sector based on renewable, decentralized energies are:

- To exploit the potential and promote a rapid deployment of decentralized, renewable energy, especially green people's energy it is crucial to reform the regulatory, legal and financial framework.
- Countries with large energy access gaps need to introduce mini-grids and off-grid systems based on renewables to their national electrification plans.
- Moreover, new finance opportunities have to be opened up for decentralized, renewable energy based on locally-rooted, community-based finance approaches and private sector participation.

- The development of energy systems should follow a value-based approach instead of a strict cost optimization to incorporate the co-benefits of energy sector development such as positive effects on other SDGs.
- The role of people – as producers and consumers of energy – has to be strengthened by education, training and capacity building as an integral part of any energy access project.
- Tools and instruments for a multi-stakeholder approach to the planning and monitoring of SDG 7 implementation have to be developed.

For more information see Policy Brief 24 in support of the first SDG 7 review at the UN HLPF 2018:

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18041SDG7_Policy_Brief.pdf

Energising Development (EnDev) is a success stories in the field of providing sustainable energy access. The technical cooperation measure is multi-donor partnership (Germany/BMZ and other European countries) with the goal to provide sustainable access to modern energy to at least 20 mio. people until 2019. EnDev is active in 25 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and provided 19.2 mio. people with access to energy since 2005, as well as about 41,000 small and medium enterprises and about 22,000 social institutions. With its structural approach, EnDev contributes in the mid- and long run to a wider energy sector transformation.

More information on EnDev may be found on https://endev.info/content/Main_Page

4. Could you suggest some contact persons of the nodal agency responsible for projects/policies, related to resilient communities, STI and the citizen science as well as any experts (from academia, private sector, civil society or government) dealing with projects in this area? We might contact them directly for further inputs or invite some of them as speakers for the CSTD inter-sessional panel and annual session.

Contact person for the initiative Green Peoples Energy: K. Hummel, BMZ

Contact person for Policy Brief 24: Dr. A. Kauer, BMZ

5. Do you have any documentation, references, or reports on the specific examples on the priority theme in your country or region?

See links above.