

A Monthly from the East African Sustainability Watch Network and INFORSE East Africa

Uganda CSOs Issue a Joint Call to Action for Walking and Cycling as Sustainable Mobility Options for the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area



On August 30 2022, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development UCSD; Joint Energy and Environment Projects and the Green Ambassador's Club (as members of INFORSE East Africa); and Training, Education and Empowerment for Neighbourhood Sustainability issued a Call to Action for Walking and Cycling as Sustainable Mobility Options for the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area.

This statement is based on 2 scenarios that have brought in focus the importance of safety and security for pedestrians and cyclists in Kampala and its neighbourhoods. One was during the COVID19 pandemic period (2019 – 2020), where the relationship between transport and health sectors became more vivid as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) restricted use of public transport including buses, taxis and *bodabodas* (commercial motor cycles). This presented a lost opportunity for scaling up walking and cycling as mobility options both rural and urban areas in Uganda including the Greater Kampala Metropolitan area (Kampala, Entebbe, Mukono, and Wakiso).

The second scenario is the current global hike in fuel prices as a result of the Russia / Ukraine war that has resulted in fuel price surge, with a litre of petrol reaching Ug shs 12,000 (USD 3.2) in some towns, a jump from Ushs 4,490 (USD1.2) before. This sharp rise in fuel prices has led to an increment in transport fares across the country. This scenario (also an opportunity) has again ignited debate on the role of walking and cycling as sustainable mobility options for the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area as well as the entire country.

Unfortunately, the guiding Non-Motorised Transport (NMT) Policy of 2012 remains largely unimplemented as illustrated by the poor provision of pedestrian and cycling paths in the current transport system. In addition, existing pedestrian walkways do not accommodate the needs of people with disabilities (SEI, 2021).

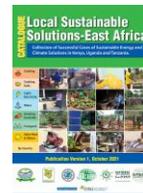
Ironically, the NMT policy (2012) sets out among its objectives to: increase the recognition of walking and cycling in transport, planning, design, and infrastructure provision; to provide safe infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclists; to mainstream resources for walking and cycling in agencies' financial planning; to develop and adopt universal design standards that provide for access to all sectors of the community; and to improve regulation and enforcement to enhance safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

It is in this respect that 4 CSOs issued this Call to Action with 6 recommendations that remind the Ministry of Works and Transport and Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) to ensure that the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and other non-motorized transport are fully considered in regulating and enforcing use of all existing transport infrastructure in Uganda.

The Call appeals to KCCA, the Ministry of Works & Transport and Non State Actors to 'increase public awareness and education about the Non-Motorized Transport Policy (2012), in order to secure buy-in and support popularize cycling and walking as a viable mobility option by expansion of NMT within gazetted zones'. On capacity strengthening, the Call urges the Ministry of Works & Transport to enhance the technical capacity of transport planners in Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area (and the new 15 Cities) to understand the climate risks and measures that can address these and accommodate NMT needs.

Read the full Call to Action: Walking and Cycling as Sustainable Mobility Options for the Greater Kampala Metropolitan Area from here: <https://www.scribd.com/document/590091377/Final-Call-to-Action-Walking-and-Cycling-as-Sustainable-Mobility-Options-for-the-Greater-Kampala-Metropolitan-Area>

CSOs provide Input to development of the National Renewable Energy Strategy for Tanzania



Left to right: Participants at the 18-19/8 Consultative meeting in Dar; Catalogue of Local Solutions (online and print); SESCOM pressure cooker - Jiko la UMEME lenye presha (JULEP) promoted by TaTEDO (Photos: TaTEDO & UCSD)

On 18 to 19 August 2022, thirty CSOs from different regions of Tanzania led by the Sustainable Energy Forum Tanzania (SEF) coordinated by TaTEDO, WWF Tanzania & Climate Action Network Tanzania held a consultative meeting in Dar es Salaam. The meeting provided input into the development of National Renewable Energy Strategy and Action Plan. According to TaTEDO, the current Tanzania National Energy Policy 2015 is due for update to take on board new challenges including renewable energy issues

CSOs shared their recommendations to the strategy development process with the team of consultants and a representative from the Ministry of Energy who were invited to attend. In this regard, the CSOs made recommendations on the process and content of the National Renewable Energy Strategy.

In terms of process, the CSOs urge the Ministry of energy to provide for feedback & validation, as this will ensure stakeholders' ownership. They also raised the importance of having a mechanism for feedback and validation of the draft document prior to final version as well as implementing and monitoring of its implementation.

'There should be an opportunity for CSOs to review and comments on various drafts of the strategy including the final version', the CSOs emphasized to the Ministry of Energy in Tanzania'.

On the content aspects, the CSOs pointed out that the National Renewable Energy strategy must not to be limited to electricity alone but adopt a broad-based approach considering all different forms of renewable energy and uses – such as bio-fuels, e-mobility, e-cooking, solar cooking, solar heating, solar drying, and so on

The CSOs also call for alignment of the National Renewable Energy Strategy with the on-going national charcoal strategy, national energy efficiency strategy and biomass energy strategy.

The CSOs also recommend that the roles of different stakeholders within the strategy development and implementation be clear. 'The role of civil society within the strategy and its implementation should be provided for', they particularly point out.

On capacity needs assessment, the CSOs call for strengthening of local organizations to undertake large projects, feasibility studies, construction, maintenance and operation; training on renewable energy development; mainstreaming into the education system from Lower to Higher Learning Institutions; and promoting local production of renewable energy products.

The CSOs further recommend that the National Renewable Energy Strategy should have a robust and practical monitoring and evaluation on periodic basis. This should include a baseline study and minimum target for each renewable energy source and technology; renewable energy resource assessment and associated challenges; achievable and realistic renewable energy targets that contribute to realization of Tanzania's energy needs.

Other recommendations include addressing innovative financing mechanisms for renewable energy; Integrating Best-Practices; uptake energy projects initiated by CSO and other stakeholders to ensure sustainability.

Read the Tanzania CSOs recommendations to the development of Tanzania National Renewable Energy Strategy from [here](#) that is summed up into [4 policy briefs](#)

INFORSE emphasizes Local Sustainable Energy and Climate Solutions in Second Round of Submission to the UNFCCC's Global Stocktake



INFORSE SB56 side event in Bonn on June 11 2022
(Photo: INFORSE)

The International Network for Sustainable Energy (INFORSE) sees the Global Stocktake (GST) under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as an important process to identify and close the gaps in national climate plans to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, including pursuing efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 °C. This is because all the current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement combined, fall short of meeting its intended goals, the temperature goal as well as the finance goal.

In its first submission to the first input phase of the global stocktake February 2022, the INFORSE Network noted that many of the local sustainable energy and climate solutions that they had identified are not adequately included in many of the NDCs.

INFORSE therefore proposed that in the GST, it is reported to which extent these local sustainable energy and climate solutions are used in each country, how they are included in climate plans and NDCs, and which potential they have for further reductions of emissions in each country

‘These missing local solutions can contribute to reduce emissions from fossil fuels and from overuse of biomass. We therefore urge that for all countries, the GST review how these solutions contribute to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions’, underlined INFORSE Network in the February 2022 submission.

In August 2022, the INFORSE Network made another input to the second round of submissions to the UNFCCC. The input noted that local sustainable energy and climate solutions have huge potential in increase ambition and close the glaring gaps in climate action while also having many co-benefits. They are relevant for many of the aspects of GST, as illustrated in the themes of the UNFCCC Bonn Technical Sessions’ (SB56) Global Stocktake World Café, where INFORSE Network actively participated.

The second GST input is supported by annexes that provide an overview of the local solutions that INFORSE members work on in different world regions; policy analysis from INFORSE South Asia and from INFORSE East Africa (generated by Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development, SusWatch Kenya and TaTEDO).

INFORSE Network’s latest input proposes that local solutions alongside large scale ones should be promoted in the NDCs and climate plans to reduce emissions beyond what is possible with only the large-scale solutions that are dominant in most NDCs today.

In addition, to facilitate this, the GST should provide for reporting on the extent to which the local solutions are used in each country, how they are included in climate plans and NDCs, and their potential to contribute to further GHG emissions reduction, resilience building and adaptation in each country

This Input also calls for provision and scaling up access to climate finance for CSOs, communities, women, youths and other groups so that they are able to implement local solutions (sustainable energy and climate solutions; nature-based solutions). For the communities at the frontline of climate change, finance for adaptation is in particular needed.

INFORSE Network believes that it is imperative to use the GST as a vehicle to identify additional actions that can increase the global ambition to reduce GHGs and close other glaring gaps in meeting the Paris Agreement Goals.

Read the full INFORSE’ Second Round of Submission to the UNFCCC’s Global Stocktake from: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/202208061912---GST-Submission2-INFORSE-August%202022.pdf>