FORUM - ARAB LEAGUE

ISSUE - THE TOPIC OF IMPROVEMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY USAGE AND OTHER FORMS OF SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract

This background paper highlights the essential information needed to debate this topic. While doing your research please keep in mind the mission of this specific UN commission. Information pertaining Arab League is linked in the bibliography section. Renewable energy is necessary for the longevity of our climate and atmosphere.

Introduction

Our use of fossil fuels has been revolutionary for our life and has made our day to day life easier in a lot of ways, but unfortunately, it has caused great damage to our atmosphere and has worsened the greenhouse effect. Many countries have started turning away from using fossil fuels and investing in renewable energy to attempt to slow down these issues.

Definition of Key Terms

Renewable energy

Renewable energy often referred to as clean energy, comes from natural sources or process that are constantly replenished.

Greenhouse Effect

The trapping of the sun's warmth in a planet's lower atmosphere, due to the greater transparency of the atmosphere to visible radiation from the sun than to infrared radiation emitted from the planet's surface.

Greenhouse gases

A gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect by absorbing infrared radiation. Carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons are examples of greenhouse gases.

General Overview

Renewable energy is any source of energy that does not 'run out', and has no limited supply. More importantly they generally do not produce greenhouse gases, which is the main reason why counties are moving away from them. In 2015, renewable energy accounted for 6% of the total power generated, the largest being method being hydropower, but as the world stresses the importance of moving away from fossil fuels due to its environmental issues, many projects have been launched in the Arab world.

Energy consumption

Fossil fuels in the Arab world has generally seen an upward climb in use, but the past couple years, it has seen a slight decline as companies invest in renewable energy. Surprisingly, renewable energy output has seen a decline from the 1990s to 2018 from 7% of the total output to only 3%. This is slacking behind the world's average of 22.5%. Europe is currently leading in the race to fully transforming from fossil fuels to renewable energy. One of the most notable countries is Germany, It is the leading country in the world where they are constantly investing and creating innovative ways to cater to the move to renewable energy.

The potential in the Arab world for wide-spread use of renewable energy is great. In some cases deployment of such infrastructure is easier than other more advanced places due to geographical reasons. Many Middle Eastern countries have been a commitment to greatly increase the amount of renewable energy generated.

Actions taken on renewable energy

Starting from 2014, an increase has been seen of the renewable energy infrastructure, although it stall falls behind other countries. The total installation has created a capacity for 14 GW, compared to only 1.2 GW in 2012

Morocco is currently leading the Arab League countries in terms of renewable energy capacity, and because of their substantial efforts it has increased its share of renewable energy generation from 35 MW in 2014 to 198 MW in 2015 for solar energy, and 290 MW in 2012 to 790 MW in 2016 for wind energy.

Due to the rapid rise that is expected in the future, many organizations have already put forward plans. The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) partnered with the Arab League and Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) to set goals to increase investments and renewable energy in the area. These goals are set to take the Arab World all the way to 2030.

Although Morocco has lead the 'race' for renewable energy, Egypt and the UAE have set very ambitious targets for their future. UAE, where only 6.9% of its energy output is renewable, has plans to reach 50% clean energy output in 2050, this is all being done under the UAE 2050 energy strategy reform. Egypt currently produces 5.7% of its energy through clean energy sources, but the Egyptian government has set goals to increase renewable energy to 20% by 2022 and 42% by 2035, these goals are set under the 2035 Integrated Sustainable Energy Strategy.

Possible Solutions

Renewable energy is the way our future will go, and that is the only way our Earth stands a chance of remaining habitable, and countries have already started on revolutionizing its energy output into a new 'green revolution'. It is in our best interest to take the Arab World into the future too with new innovative ways. These include passing legislation to set carbon tax on the company, this will incentivise companies to decrease their carbon footprint. Another solution would be encouraging foreign countries to invest in the Arab World through renewable energy.

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