

## SDC 2019 Annual Meeting Abstracts

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**Title: Financing Energy Access under the Climate Change Agenda**



The dispersion of finance for renewable energy access is one of the critical mechanisms to implementing climate change solutions at the international level. However, it is a complex and fragmented structure with multiple stakeholders and institutions that determine allocation of funds. Besides climate change, energy access for populations and geographies without electricity and clean cooking alternatives is a crucial element in renewable energy discussions. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 highlights the importance of energy access and aims to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy services by 2030. The goal also aims to enhance international cooperation for finance and technology transfers. However, our analysis highlights that energy access appears to be neglected within the larger climate change agenda whereby high impact energy poor countries are receiving fewer financial resources. The study has focused on the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as global institutions in the climate change and energy access arena. An institutional analysis of these two international bodies indicates that a rather complicated process of fund transfers for renewable energy might not make SDG 7 a reality by 2030. Through, semi-structured interviews with stakeholders involved with the ISA and GCF, we observed that a complex international climate finance and development aid process along with a lack of coherence between energy access and climate change action. This has created huge gaps in fund allocation and recipient distribution. From a theoretical perspective, the findings aim to expand our understanding of the international institutional process of climate change debt and development aid. This will shed light on the energy and climate justice aspects within the world system. The practicality of this paper is to focus on means through which energy poor countries and communities are prioritised. This will enable scholars, development practitioners and policy makers to understand the international development and climate change financial spectrum and inform better decisions at all levels of governance. For the conference, the paper will facilitate wider discussions on the interrelations between development and climate change and the international financial architect to make the SDGs a reality.