

Energy transition sao tome and principe

The International Renewable Energy Agency's IRENA (2019)'s report, A New World - The Geopolitics of the Energy Transformation, foresees the impact of the energy transformations on SIDS as follows:

The Santomean Ministry of Infrastructures and Natural Resources presented on 30 July 2021 the second national climate pledge to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), marking its renewed commitment to the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement where world leaders universally agreed to advance climate actions to limit temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, while pursuing efforts to limit to a safer 1.5 degrees.

Under that agreement, countries agreed to develop climate pledges - also known as "Nationally Determined Contributions" or "NDCs" - that taken together will help tackle global warming. The agreement also calls on countries to revise and strengthen their NDCs every five years. However, it is increasingly apparent that urgent steps must be taken to reverse current unsustainable trends, leading to high expectations for governments to commit to ambitious pledges that leave no-one behind.

"In the global context, our assumed commitments may seem modest; however, nationally, they are quite ambitious with regard to mitigation. Once implemented, our targets would allow for the transition to clean energy and replace fossil fuels, which up to now have been the sole primary source for power generation in the country," H.E. Osvaldo Cravid Viegas d'Abreu, Minister of Infrastructure and Natural Resources said. "These targets can help us achieve one of our country's major challenges: sustainable energy production."

"We hope that the continuous NDC update process will strengthen national awareness regarding the need to urgently act to combat climate change and its impacts, especially in this context of post-pandemic economic recovery," Katarzyna Wawiernia, UNDP Sao Tome and Principe Resident Representative said. "Sao Tome and Principe's new targets will encourage green and sustainable blue economy. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions of sectors, we are hopeful that key development issues such as energy and waste management can be addressed."

UNDP Climate Change and Energy Specialist, Enrico Dal Farra, project manager of the Climate Promise project in STP underlined the strategic and cross-sectoral character of the updated NDC. "Productive sectors such as fishery and agriculture, show high climate vulnerability in Sao Tome and Principe, just as in other Small Island Developing States. They are therefore central to the country's NDC to ensure resilience of the socio-economic fabric of the country, especially of the most vulnerable and poorest groups."

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Web: <https://sumthingtasty.co.za/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

