

Renewable energy growth laayoune

Morocco's National Office of Electricity & Drinking Water (ONEE) has partnered with GE Vernova's Gas Power business and Nareva to decarbonize Laayoune Power Plant, which is powered by three GE Vernova 6B heavy-duty gas turbines.

Assessment results can pave the path ahead for the full-scale integration of the gas turbines with green hydrogen, aiming to achieve 100% decarbonization of the Laayoune Power Plant. Laayoune's province is experiencing rapid development of projects focused on renewable energy, and there is growing interest in hydrogen as a viable alternative to fossil fuels. Morocco aims to expand renewable electricity capacity from its current share of 40%, to 52% by 2030.

For his part, Joseph Anis, CEO of GE Vernova's Gas Power business for MENA said: "GE Vernova is pleased to collaborate with ONEE and Nareva to develop this first-of-its-kind project and support climate change commitments in Morocco."

As with many other African countries, Morocco faces significant challenges regarding the future of its energy system, particularly in the electricity sector¹. With global energy demand continuing to rise, there is a renewed focus on renewable energy sources that are sustainable, affordable, and accessible (Belakhdar et al., 2014). In response, numerous countries have adopted programs and initiatives to promote the use of renewable energy.

The Moroccan policy making process is confronted with substantial increases in electricity demand, with growth rates estimated to be twice as high as in the North Mediterranean area due to population growth and advances in socio-economic development (Kousksou et al., 2014; Ouammi et al., 2012). It is estimated that the annual electricity demand could rise from 35 TWh in 2016 to either 80 TWh or 170 TWh by 2030. This will require the deployment of new electricity generation capacities with volumes four times higher by 2030 and more than ten times higher by 2050.

Given the high intensity of fossil fuel use in Morocco's current electricity generation portfolio, meeting the electricity demand will also lead to increased reliance on imported fossil fuels and a rise in electricity-related carbon emissions. Additionally, global warming due to anthropogenic climate change will drive cooling electricity demand, and the potential impacts of climate change on the energy sector may be significant. All these potential future developments require a significant reconsideration of Morocco's energy policy.

Due to the scarcity of research on the renewable energy sector in Africa and specifically in Morocco, our paper will be an opportunity to promote and contribute to the creation of a relevant literature. It could therefore constitute a reference for professionals and university researchers to carry out more in-depth studies.

Knowing that Morocco is not a producer of fossil fuels, the nation is entirely dependent on the international

and external market for its supply of oil and gas products. Adding to this, due to the sharp increase in oil prices on the international market, the country's overall energy bill weighs heavily on the state budget. Given this fact, in 2009, the Moroccan government launched a new strategy based on the utilization of renewable energy resources.

Morocco has set ambitious targets for the development of renewable energy, with a thing to increase the share of renewable energy in its energy blend to 52 by 2030. This transition to renewable energy isn't only driven by the need to reduce hothouse gas emigrations and alleviate the impacts of climate change, but also by the implicit profitable benefits of renewable energy development. In this paper, we examine the counter accusations of renewable energy on the Moroccan frugality, fastening on its implicit impact on profitable growth, job creation, energy security, and the environment.

Studies have shown that renewable energy can have positive goods on profitable growth. For case, a study by Khanniba et al. (2020) set up that the development of renewable energy in Morocco is anticipated to increase GDP by 0.51 by 2025. The study further revealed that investment in renewable energy systems could have a significant impact on employment and financial earnings, leading to increased economic growth.

Another study by Al-Huqail et al. (2020) showed that the development of renewable energy could help Morocco reduce its reliance on fossil energies and alleviate the impact of price oscillations in transnational oil painting requests. This, in turn, could lead to more stable profitable growth and increased competitiveness.

Renewable energy has the implicit to produce new job openings in Morocco. A study by Fehri et al. (2020) estimated that the renewable energy sector in Morocco could produce up to 163,000 new jobs by 2030, particularly in areas similar as solar and wind energy. The study stressed that the development of renewable energy could also give openings for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to share in the force chain of renewable energy systems.

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