COP26 Side Event

"Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions supporting Climate Change Objectives during the Decade of Action and Beyond"

Summary

4 November 2021

14:00 – 15:30 Glasgow Time

10:00 – 11:30 New York Time

1. The Global Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions Network held a side event during COP26 on 4 November 2021 from 14:00-15:30 Glasgow time. The in-person portion of the hybrid event was held in the SDG Pavilion at COP26 and participants from across the world joined virtually via Zoom. The event was titled "Sustainable Water and Energy Solutions supporting Climate Change Objectives during the Decade of Action and Beyond" and included speakers from the public, private, and non-profit sectors, as well international organizations. The agenda, concept note, and list of speakers and presentations can be found on the network's website.

2. The main objectives of the event were to "share current and future activities, projects and

and energy, most notably by carefully managing the water. The Brazilian sugarcane industry was able to reduce their water usage from about 15-20 cubic meters per ton of sugarcane to 2, massively reducing their water consumption. Mr. Albuquerque finished by saying that each commitment matters and that the projects shared at the panel were all part of the larger effort to combat climate change and secure a better future.

6. **Mr. Mariano González**, Member of the Governing Council of Canal de Isabel II and Regional Vice Minister for the Environment and Agriculture of the Community of Madrid, Spain, emphasized the role that the 2030 Agenda has on the strategy and outlook of Canal de Isabel II and their strategy for setting a model for all of Europe to achieve the goals. The challenge, he explained, does not lie in access to natural resources, but in the lack of a model of how to use resources to generate electricity. Luckily, Canal de Isabel II and others are making massive progress in this field. Between hydroelectric power, (including microturbines), solar, green hydrogen, and biogas, Canal de Isabel II is leveraging various strategies to reduce emissions and improve output of energy and other beneficial products. For instance, wastewater from sanitation can be repurposed for fertilizer, and biogas can be used *in situ* to help power these processes and reduce energy dependency. Mr. González emphasized how Canal de Isabel II was able to take a problem (waste products from sanitation) and turn it into an opportunity (biogas and fertilizer production) and expressed that business opportunities can be in

total restoration of the Atlantic Forest in the State of Parana and the dissemination of invaluable ecosystem services. The company's current reservoir should have a useful life of more than 180 years. When it comes to climate resilience, Itaipu is especially dedicated to low carbon technologies, territorial and regional development, and water security, as well as sustainable energy generation. Itaipu's protected region of forest not only provides carbon sequestration and decreased sedimentation but also actually increases precipitation and the wellbeing of the reservoir. Through ecosystem management, international partnerships, and environmental education, Itaipu is continuing to follow its mission statement.

9. **Ms. Eshrat Waris,** Director of Product and Business of SOLshare Bangladesh, first shared that SOLshare is an energy-sharing startup organization that provides people in Bangladesh – a densely populated and rapidly developing country – clean energy through an innovative program. The national grid of Bangladesh is 97% fossil fuels, and there is no smart integration with other grids (excepting an initiative with SOLshare that allows some people to sell solar power to the national grid). Using the SOLBazaar, a peer-to-peer marketplace for energy, people can have more control over the energy produced and less energy goes wasted, as solar energy often does at peak day times. This is a major benefit in a country where 60 million people have unreliable access to electricity. This program can also extent to micromobility – the electric three-wheeler rickshaws that are common in the region. There are several more ideas on the horizon, including a change from lead batteries to lithium ion for the rickshaws, or smart meter pit stops. Ms. Waris finished by thanking the par.76 0 Td(pa)

on large products which bring money to the government, and not local companies. In order to make more progress, these policies must be changed.

b. Mr. Guerra said that even in this event there were fitting examples of progress and impact in the private sector and at the local or municipal level. Funding, he said, was also not the biggest problem. He said that, if something makes economic sense for consumers, it will happen. Therefore, we need accessible solutions that people can support. In order to get to that point, we need to encourage technology transfer and the sharing of experiences, which are included in the Paris Agreement.

12. **Ms. Maria Antonia Gwynn**, Counselor of Itaipu Binacional Paraguay provided closing remarks. She thanked the panelists again and spoke on the importance of water and energy solutions supporting climate change objectives. The world today, she said, produced more renewable energy than ever before. The brutal impacts of climate change, such as drought and hydrological crisis in South America, can only be overcome through far-reaching international cooperation. She