XIX International Scientific and Practical Hybrid Conference

"Energetika XXI: Economy, Policy, Ecology"

"Aiming at Net Zero by 2050 in Keeping with the Science: GHG free Growth in the Global South / Decarbonizing Technologies in the Global North"

11-12 November 2026

St. Petersburg

Background:

Energetika 21 is a scientific and practical conference regularly held in November in St. Petersburg, addressing energy, environment and GHG issues by offering a platform to exchange information and ideas on these topics.

In times of increasing global tensions and uncertainties Energetika 21 focuses on the unanimously agreed targets of the Paris Agreement (PA) as a topic of globally joint interest and the different approaches to achieve. This must take into account different situations between the Global South and North and their implications, state of technology as well as global developments which have to be factored in.

Stocktaking at COP 28, the role of fossil fuels

The first stocktaking exercise under the Paris Agreement (PA) at COP 28 was reflected in article 28 of the COP 28 declaration which gave a balanced view on the way forward to meet the targets of the PA. In particular, the role for fossil fuels was articulated in article 28 section d) as "Transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science".

TAFF - a controversial initiative from COP 30

The TAFF (Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels) initiative was created during COP 30 to discuss a road map to phase out fossil fuels. TAFF aims at a binding global treaty to completely reduce fossil fuels. The first TAFF meeting was held in Santa Marta, Columbia, from 24 – 29 April 2026, convening 57 countries. Controversial points are:

- COP discussions in the past aimed at reducing GHG emissions in line with the IPCC report on 1.5°C, while TAFF aims at completely reducing fossil fuels without relating to the climate targets, neglecting the potential to abate CO2 emissions and the need to use fossil fuels to meet seasonal demand variations.

- The group of 57 TAFF countries at the meeting in Santa Marta (which excluded countries like China, Russia, India and Saudi Arabia) by looking at a globally binding agreement departs from the UNFCCC's Single Responsibility Principle.
- TAFF creates a confusing discussion parallel to the COP 30 Activation Group 4: "Transitioning away from fossil fuels in a just, orderly and equitable manner".

While TAFF is a catchy acronym from the first words of Article 28 d) it ignores the rest of the text reopening the compromise found at COP 28 with much difficulty on fossil fuels, risking the cleavage of the COP process.

The discussion at Energetika:

The discussion at Energetika events in 2025 and 2026 focused on the special situation of the Global South as well as the development and role of technologies, both topics which are not addressed in detail in the COP process. The Global South primarily needs CO2 free economic development and food production for the well-being ofits population; the development of PV and batteries offers a great opportunity to achieve this target. For the Global North decarbonization will - beyond roll out of renewables - require CO2 free storage solutions and decarbonization of existing energy investment needing further technology development. These discussions will be continued at the upcoming Energetika conference on 11/ 12 November 2026 which will address on day 1 (11 November 2026) approaches, specific to the Global South, particularly Africa, linked to energy and climate including impacts on irrigation and food production. Day 2 (12 November 2026) will shed further light on the role of various low carbon technologies – including impact of AI on the energy sector. (detailed program below)

Organizational issues:

The language of the workshop is English and Russian (simultaneous translation provided). It will take place at the facilities of UNECON (Griboedov Canal Emb. 30-32, St. Petersburg) with the option to participate online. Participation is free, subject to registration and available places. To register, please, contact the Organizing Committee: energetika@unecon.ru.

Preliminary program

11 November 2026
Wednesday

Time: 10:15 – 18:00 MSK / 8:15 – 16:00 CET

Venue: St. Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON), Griboedov Canal Emb. 30-32

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcoming remarks**

- **Dmitry Vasilenko,** Vice-Rector of UNECON

10:15 – 13:30 **Session 1: Roll out of PV and Solar Pumps in the Global South (Coffee break at 11:45 – 12:00)**

Chair: Almaz Abildayev, «Energy Aspects of Kazakhstan» Analytical Center

- **Richard Mbithi Mulwa,** University of Nairobi
- **Steven Mukalazi**, Maintenance Palace Ltd.
- **Dan Kenard Abriol**, Philippine Institute for Development Studies
- **Vu Dieu Thuy**, Solarvest Solutions Vietnam

13:30 – 14:30 **Lunch break**

14:30 – 16:00 **Session 2: Policy and Instruments for the Roll out of PV and Solar Pumps**

Chair: Aleksey Gromov, Institute for Energy and Finance Foundation

- **Rodrigo Flora Calili**, Energy Institute, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (online)

- **Tran Anh Tho**, FUYU Precision Co., Ltd. – Foxconn Industrial Internet (FII)

16:00 – 16:15 **Coffee break**

16:15 – 17:45 **Young Researchers Discussion: How to promote decarbonization and economic growth in the Global South?**

Chair: Irina Mironova, Independent Expert

- **Mokhammad Ardafillah**, Yakhero Academy
- **Pet Panhavisal**, Green Move Consulting
- **Ario Usman Maulana**, Climate Chapter Indonesia
- **Oleg Stepanov**, UNECON
- **Egor Muravyov**, Higher School of Economics
- **Anastasia Fomina,** Higher School of Economics

18:00 **Closing remarks followed by**

Reception

12 November 2026
Thursday

Time: 10:00 – 18:00 MSK / 08:00 – 16:00 CET

Venue: St. Petersburg State University of Economics (UNECON), Griboedov Canal Emb. 30-32

10:00 – 10:15 **Welcoming remarks**

10:15 – 12:30 **Plenary Session: Major Global Trends in Energy Supply, Technology and Climate Protection**

Chair: Dmitry Vasilenko, UNECON

- Representative of the New Development Bank
- **Zhao Xiusheng**, Tsinghua University
- **Ralf Dickel**, Independent Expert
- **Konstantin Romanov**, Gazprom
- **Denis Demin**, Gazprom Neft

12:30 – 13:45 **Lunch break**

13:45 – 15:15 **Session 3: Promising Technology Developments**
Chair: TBA

- **Jens Völler**, Team Consult G.P.E. GmbH (online)
- **Quashtalani Haramaini**, PLN Indramayu
- **Martin Lambert**, Oxford Institute for Energy Studies (online)
- *Closed Loops in Energy: Convergence of Climate and Circular Paradigms*, **Natalia Sarakhanova,** UNECON

15:15 – 15:45 **Coffee break**

15:45 – 17:00 **Session 4: Impact of AI on Energy and Decarbonization**

Chair: Aleksey Belogoryev, Institute for Energy and Finance Foundation

- **Guo Bowei**, Renmin University of China (online)(TBC)
- **Edmar de Almeida**, Institute of Energy, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC – Rio) (online)
- **Alice Sergaeva**, Naumen Academy(TBC)
- **Grigoriy Yarygin**, Saint Petersburg State University

17:00 – 18:00 **Concluding Panel Discussion: Different approaches to technology development for decarbonization**

Chair: Igbal Guliev, MGIMO

- **Zhao Xiusheng**, Renmin University of China
- **Andrey Konoplyanik,** Scientific Council on System Research in Energy, Russian Academy of Sciences
- **Thomas Geisel**, The European Parliament
- **Richard Mbithi Mulwa**, University of Nairobi

18:00 **Closing remarks**