United Nations Environment Programme

Environment and Trade Hub

African Centre for Technology Studies

Technical University of Denmark

European Commission

UNLOCKING TRADE IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES TO TACKLE AIR POLLUTION

Why

Air pollution...
... bears high risks and costs for society and the environment.
... causes annually around 6.5 million premature deaths.

The production of electricity is one of the main contributors to air pollution and global warming through the use of fossil fuels. Fossil fuels can in many cases - with a limited extra cost - be replaced by environmentally sound technologies, such as solar photovoltaic, small scale hydro, geothermal and wind energy. The reduction of trade barriers can lower the cost and increase the uptake of such technologies.

Some countries still impose trade barriers on climate-friendly goods and services, impeding the flow of clean technologies. These barriers include tariffs and non-tariff barriers such as countervailing and anti-dumping duties, voluntary export restraints or technical barriers to

How

- **In 2015, global investment in renewable energy capacity more than doubled financial allocations to new coal and gas generation. The liberalization of trade can help to disseminate renewable and clean technologies, providing a means for all countries to address air pollution.**
- **Policy action is required to eliminate both tariff and non-tariff barriers and to harmonize standards, in order to create access to clean technologies for all countries. National and multilateral policies can play a crucial role in internalizing some of the environmental and social costs of production and to set the right incentives to leverage trade in clean technologies and to minimize air pollution at a global scale.**

The 2030 Agenda

ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PROMOTE CLEAN ENERGY RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT, TRANSFER AND DISSEMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Global renewable power generation capacity rose by

9 % last year

— **a fourfold** increase from the start of this century
— buoyed by the growth of newer sources such as

solar power that increased by more than **› 30 %.**

For the second year in a row, renewable energy accounted for more than **half the new power generation capacity added worldwide.**

Sales of plug-in electric vehicles last year were

42 % higher than in 2015,

growing eight times faster than the overall automotive market. The storage capacity of big lithium ion battery systems **more than doubled last year.**

Trade in environmental goods and services is expected to grow to US$1.9 trillion by 2020.

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

UNLOCKING TRADE IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGIES TO TACKLE AIR POLLUTION

Environmentally Sound Technologies are defined as technologies that protect the environment, are less polluting, use all resources in a more sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products and handle residual wastes in a more acceptable way than the technologies for which they are substitutes. They can also be referred to as "clean" technologies.

Increasing the uptake of environmentally sound technologies can result in several benefits for the environment, including reduced air pollution. Access to cost-effective technologies through trade can help to both stimulate the green economy and to achieve global sustainable development objectives.

Eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade of clean technologies can lead to...

...a 14% increase in the trade volume of clean technologies, including those for air pollution control

...a reduction of 10 million tons of CO_2 by 2030

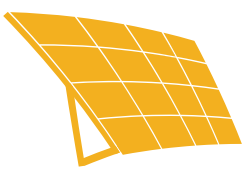
& 0.02% CO_2 intensity of GDP by 2030

...climate change mitigation, adaptation and resource efficiency

...access to affordable environmental goods, creation of services

...integration into global value chains and growth in green industries

...increased regional production, trade and investment in Environmental Goods & Services



Solar PV was the fastest growing energy source in the world in 2016

Example of a successful company in this high-potential market:

The value of Tesla Inc. stocks grew over 800 % in the past five years, and over 40 % in the past 12 months.

Developing countries became net exporters of renewable energy in 2007

The share of south-south trade is growing

To Move Forward We Need...

...international regulatory frameworks, e.g. in the form of plurilateral agreements such as the Environmental Goods Agreement. The pending negotiations aim to eliminate tariffs on a list of goods of particular importance for environmental protection and climate action, and are intended to eventually be expanded to environmental services and non-tariff trade barriers.

...a multi-stakeholder coalition of actors championing trade in clean technologies, which could set a precedent for partnership and scale-up, feeding into the global agenda on trade and sustainable development.

...research, development and capacity building to enable policy makers and the private sector to implement frameworks to unlock the benefits arising from clean technologies.