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COP31 SIDE MEETING · ANTALYA, TÜRKIYE

Green Skills for the Energy Transition

Universities as engines of renewable energy entrepreneurship in Sub-Saharan Africa

DATE

Saturday 14 November 2026

TIME AND ROOM

15:00 to 15:55, Meeting Room 07

HOSTED BY

ICE Institute, SIMAD University
READ project, Erasmus+

PROGRAMME

55 minutes, five parts

Time	Session	Speaker
15:00 to 15:12	Welcome and presentation on green skills, the READ project and the work of ICE	Abdikafi Hassan Abdi, ICE, SIMAD University
15:12 to 15:17	Opening remarks	TBC
15:17 to 15:37	Roundtable on moving from the skills gap to green enterprise	All panelists
15:37 to 15:50	Open discussion	All participants
15:50 to 15:55	Next steps and group photo	Abdikafi Hassan Abdi

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THE CHALLENGE

Renewable energy is booming, but few of its jobs are in Africa

16.6

million renewable energy jobs worldwide in 2024

344,000

renewable energy jobs in Africa, a very small share of the global total

Why the gap?

Africa mostly imports renewable technologies, so the higher value jobs in the supply chain are created elsewhere.

Closing this gap starts with skills, and universities are where skills are built.

Source: IRENA and ILO (2026), Renewable Energy and Jobs: Annual Review 2025

GREEN SKILLS

What we mean by green skills

Technical skills

Designing, installing, operating and maintaining solar, wind, storage and mini grid systems.

Entrepreneurial skills

Building business models, raising finance, reaching customers and managing clean energy ventures.

Policy and systems skills

Understanding energy regulation, climate finance and how national climate plans create new markets.

> Universities can teach all three when training is linked to real jobs and real enterprises.

THE READ PROJECT

Renewable Energy Advancement for Inclusive Development in Sub-Saharan Africa

8

partner universities

5

countries: Somalia, Tanzania, Malawi, Türkiye and Italy

36

months, November 2025 to October 2028

1st

Somali led, multi country, EU funded renewable energy project

Coordinated by SIMAD University and funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education.

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THE NEW CURRICULUM

Two new courses, 18 teaching modules

14 **Renewable Energy Technologies and Systems**

modules forming the technical foundation

4 **Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship**

modules that turn technical knowledge into viable clean energy businesses

IMPLEMENTATION TARGETS

6 African universities will deliver the new courses

300+ students expected to benefit

120 young people trained in energy entrepreneurship

Source: READ consortium. Targets to be confirmed against the official project documents.

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ICE INSTITUTE AND SIMAD UNIVERSITY

What we have done on climate so far

Research and policy

- State of Climate in Somalia 2025 report
- Climate Change Symposium 2024 and the Mogadishu Environmental Summit
- Geo Portal and policy briefs for climate decisions

Youth and skills

- More than 1,000 youth, students and educators trained in 2025
- 200+ young people in the Climate Justice Incubator with Oxfam Somalia
- Green Champions and Sustainability Scholars programmes
- UNLEASH Hack Somalia 2024, the first of its kind in Somalia

Global voice

- First academic institution in Somalia accredited by UNEP (2025)
- UNCCD observer and Adaptation Research Alliance member
- Somali evidence at COP29, COP30 and now COP31

Sources: ICE Institute Annual Reports 2024 and 2025

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ICE INSTITUTE AND SIMAD UNIVERSITY

From climate action to clean energy skills

2023
ICE Institute established by SIMAD University

2025
Doog Debates ask whether Somalia is ready for an energy transition

Nov 2025
READ project begins, coordinated by SIMAD University

Feb 2026
Agreement with Tamarso Energy on renewable energy skills and grid development

2026
Training of trainers for more than 30 academics, as the courses move into African universities

> Our next step is to turn this course into jobs and enterprises, together with the partners in this room.

Sources: ICE Institute Annual Report 2025; ICE Institute news

INSTITUTE OF CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

IOM UN MIGRATION

Restore Somalia FOUNDATION
Empowering Communities for Resilience, Inclusion and Sustainable Development.

COP31 TÜRKİYE ANTALYA

Roundtable **Discussion**

Green Skills for the Energy Transition

Universities as engines of renewable energy entrepreneurship in Sub-Saharan Africa

14 Nov, 2026 | *Saturday* 15:00 to 15:55 Antalya time

Meeting Room 07
COP31 venue,
Antalya

MODERATOR



ABDIFATAH HASSAN ALI
Associate Researcher



ABDULKANI R. BARROW
Somalia's Chief Negotiator



AHMED NUR YUSUF
Executive Director, SCAP Somalia



ZOUBEIR BENHADJ YAHYA
Climate negotiator on article 6 and climate finance



ZAMZAM IBRAHIM
Director, Somalis for Sustainability



ABDIKAFI HASSAN ABDI
Head of Research CE Institute
SIMAD University

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ROUNDTABLE · PANELIST 4 OF 4



Mr. Abdullahi Ibrahim Abdi

Director General, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources

"Somalia has significant renewable energy potential, but turning this into affordable electricity, productive enterprises and employment requires skilled professionals. Where are the most critical skills gaps in Somalia's energy sector, and how can universities, through initiatives such as the READ Project, help close them?"

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ROUNDTABLE · PANELIST 3 OF 4

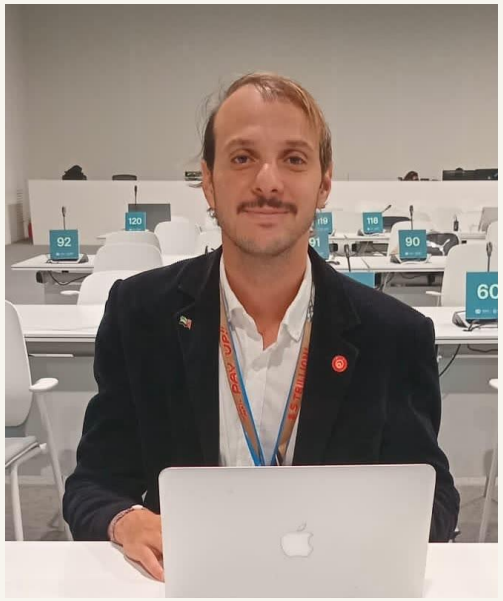


Abdulkani R. Barrow — Somalia's

Chief Climate Negotiator

"Somalia's NDC 3.0 sets ambitious targets for renewable energy and low-carbon development, but implementation requires finance, technology and skilled people. From Somalia's negotiating perspective, what must COP31 deliver to help translate these national commitments into practical investments, green jobs and development opportunities?"

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Zoubeir Ben Hadj Yahya

Negotiator, Article 6 and Climate Finance

ROUNDTABLE · PANELIST 2 OF 4

"COP31 is placing renewed emphasis on turning climate commitments into investment. How can countries such as Somalia leverage Article 6 mechanisms and other climate finance instruments to support renewable energy entrepreneurship, while ensuring environmental integrity and tangible benefits for local communities?

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ROUNDTABLE · PANELIST 1 OF 4



Zamzam Ibrahim

Somalis for Sustainability

Young people represent one of Africa's greatest opportunities for the green transition, yet many remain excluded from meaningful economic opportunities. How can universities and climate institutions move beyond climate awareness to equip young people, particularly women, with the skills, finance and opportunities to become entrepreneurs and leaders in the green economy?"

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ROUNDTABLE · PANELIST 4 OF 4



Mr. Ahmed Yusuf — Executive Director,
Somali Climate Action Platform (SCAP)

"Many climate initiatives focus on national commitments and international finance, while implementation ultimately happens within communities. How can civil society, universities and the private sector work together to ensure the green energy transition creates accessible jobs, locally owned businesses and tangible benefits for Somali communities?"

OPEN DISCUSSION

Your ideas and partnerships

1. Where could your institution host interns, co-teach a module or mentor a start-up?
2. Which green skills will your country need most in the next five years?
3. How can climate finance support training and young clean energy enterprises?

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NEXT STEPS

Let’s build green skills together

A short summary of today’s discussion, shared with all participants within one week

A partnership list for teaching, internships, incubation and funding

First student and youth cohorts for the Renewable Energy Entrepreneurship course

Thank you

ice.simad.edu.so · ice@simad.edu.so

COP31 · Antalya · 14 November 2026