

Renewable energy growth santo domingo

Santo Domingo.- The Dominican Association of Isolated Electrical Systems (ADOSEA) and the Dominican Association of the Electrical Industry (ADIE) have proposed updates to solar panel regulations in the Dominican Republic. They argue for a system where all users, with or without solar panels, contribute equitably to maintaining and developing the national electrical grid, ensuring a more balanced and reliable system.

Carlos Rodr?guez, president of ADOSEA, emphasized the need to update the 13-year-old regulatory framework to reflect the country's current energy landscape. Drawing parallels to reforms in nations like Chile, Costa Rica, and Spain, Rodr?guez highlighted the importance of fostering renewable energy while ensuring fairness for the broader population. Currently, only 17,725 people use solar panels compared to three million without access. He advocates transitioning from net metering to net billing to enhance fairness and system reliability.

Manuel Cabral, executive vice president of ADIE, noted the significant growth of renewable energy, which now accounts for 20% of the national grid. This expansion aligns with international commitments, with projections of reaching over 2,500 megawatts of non-conventional renewable energy by 2025. Cabral underscored that regulation updates should balance the interests of all stakeholders while maintaining the reliability of the Dominican electrical system. Both associations agree on the need for fairer compensation mechanisms to avoid disadvantaging any group.

SANTO DOMINGO, Nov 02 (IPS) - When President Luis Abinader arrived at his inauguration in an electrically driven car as a symbolic gesture of his Government's intentions to make sustainable development one of its main objectives - he signalled the start of addressing climate change commitments in the country.

Abinader furthermore said he would immediately initiate preparations to make the presidential palace dependent on solar energy for its electrical supply - a commitment towards moving the country from being dependent on non-renewable energy.

Since his August inauguration, his Government has moved towards revising and making good the commitments of the Paris Agreement where it agreed to implement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The Paris Agreement was in itself a success because since then, most of the signatories have submitted national climate mitigation goals. Five years have passed, and according to the agreement, the signatory countries must now revise their NDCs, an opportunity for aligning their climate and development agendas and revisit their efforts to mobilise interest and funding for achieving their previously set goals.

On October 1, 2020, the Dominican Republic launched its NDC update process. The event included representatives from the Government, the private sector, the civil society, development and implementing partners and the academia, and its purpose was to showcase and raise awareness on the NDC update process, its steps and implications for these different stakeholders.

As part of an endeavour to mainstream an eco-friendly approach to all policies, the Dominican Republic, with the support of The Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP), is working on a revised and enhanced NDC strategy. This strategy includes a medium-term implementation, finance and investment plan to effectively address water management, ecosystem preservation, food security, smart urban development and dependency on fossil fuels.

Simultaneously the plan will be supported by a strengthening capacity and awareness for safeguarding natural resources. An assessment of attained achievements will in 2025 constitute the groundwork for the development and implementation of a long-term strategy leading up to 2050.

In an exclusive interview with IPS, Max Puig, Executive Vice President of the Dominican National Council for Climate Change and a Clean Development Mechanism said despite a change of regime and hardship caused by COVID-19, many of the commitments made five years ago are gradually becoming realised.

NDCs are country-specific, though Puig repeatedly reminded us that even if every country has its specific character and preconditions, the implementation of NDCs must go beyond national efforts. CAEP is a step in this direction since it provides international expertise, as well as technical and financial support to countries in need of such assistance.

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Web: <https://hollanddutch tours.nl/contact-us/>

Email: energystorage2000@gmail.com

WhatsApp: 8613816583346

