



# GLOBAL LAUNCH EVENT

**“A REGENERATION”**

Implementing the **United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS)**: UNDP’s Contribution

9 December 2021  
9 – 11:00 am

**Online** | **Concept**  
**Event** | **Note**



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## CONTEXT

Reports on the Sahel often depict a place of crisis, insecurity, humanitarian disasters and development deficits. Development challenges are numerous but so are the opportunities. In acknowledging this, UNDP has taken an unsparing look at the approach to development in the Sahel and strengthened our added-value contribution to implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). In close consultation with stakeholders, we have reframed our lens to better focus on transformative actions, contextualize approaches based on contexts, and mapped a pathway to identify and scale up homegrown solutions carved by Sahelians who are driving transformative peace and development efforts in the region. “A Regeneration” is the translation of our development approach to support Sahelians deliver on their own agenda to transform the region.

**“When a great tree falls, the roots and the stump remain, and can regenerate” - A Sahelian proverb.**

“A Regeneration” is an approach that we believe, will help plant the seeds of regeneration in the Sahel and chart a sustainable, peaceful, and prosperous future for its population. One that incorporates the foundational roots, historical and cultural assets in a region that for centuries has been a bastion

of civilization, agricultural productivity, trade, and endogenous governance systems. And one that investigates the future by harnessing the unique potential in the region, anchored on the energy, talent, and rich identity of the Sahelians, in a land endowed with a wealth of natural resources, a dynamic youth and increased innovation trends.

Rooted in these unique socio-cultural assets, “A Regeneration” is UNDP’s substantive contribution to implementing the UN’s Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS), spearheaded by the Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel. It acknowledges the urgent need to tackle development deficits to address root causes of the instability in the region, away from business-as-usual endeavors. With Sahelians in the driving seat, we are offering a deliberate approach to scale up, accelerate and contextualize investments that propel sustainable development to realize the Sahel promise.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reversed many development gains across the world and in the Sahel. The urgency for scaled up action and massive investments in the Sahel is a moral imperative to attain peace and stability for all. At UNDP, based on our comparative advantages, we offer to focus on three key development catalysts – Governance, Renewable Energy and

Youth, to cause a massive transformation in the region. Governance, at the heart of engineering social contracts, is the bedrock of inclusive and resilient development. Young people, who constitute 65% of the Sahelian population, are the future leaders and a powerful growth engine. Renewable Energy – through the Climate promise - can propel realization of all SDGs, as Sahelian societies define the terms for a clean development path and just energy transition. And by integrating these three interconnected development enablers, we aim to yield true transformational impact on over 150 million lives in the Sahel.

In this spirit, we aim to bring to scale proven models in varied Sahel contexts, whether in or post conflict, at risk or stable environments. Tailored interventions will be applied, with an eye on prevention, stabilization, transformation, and sustainability. According to each development typology, and with a particular

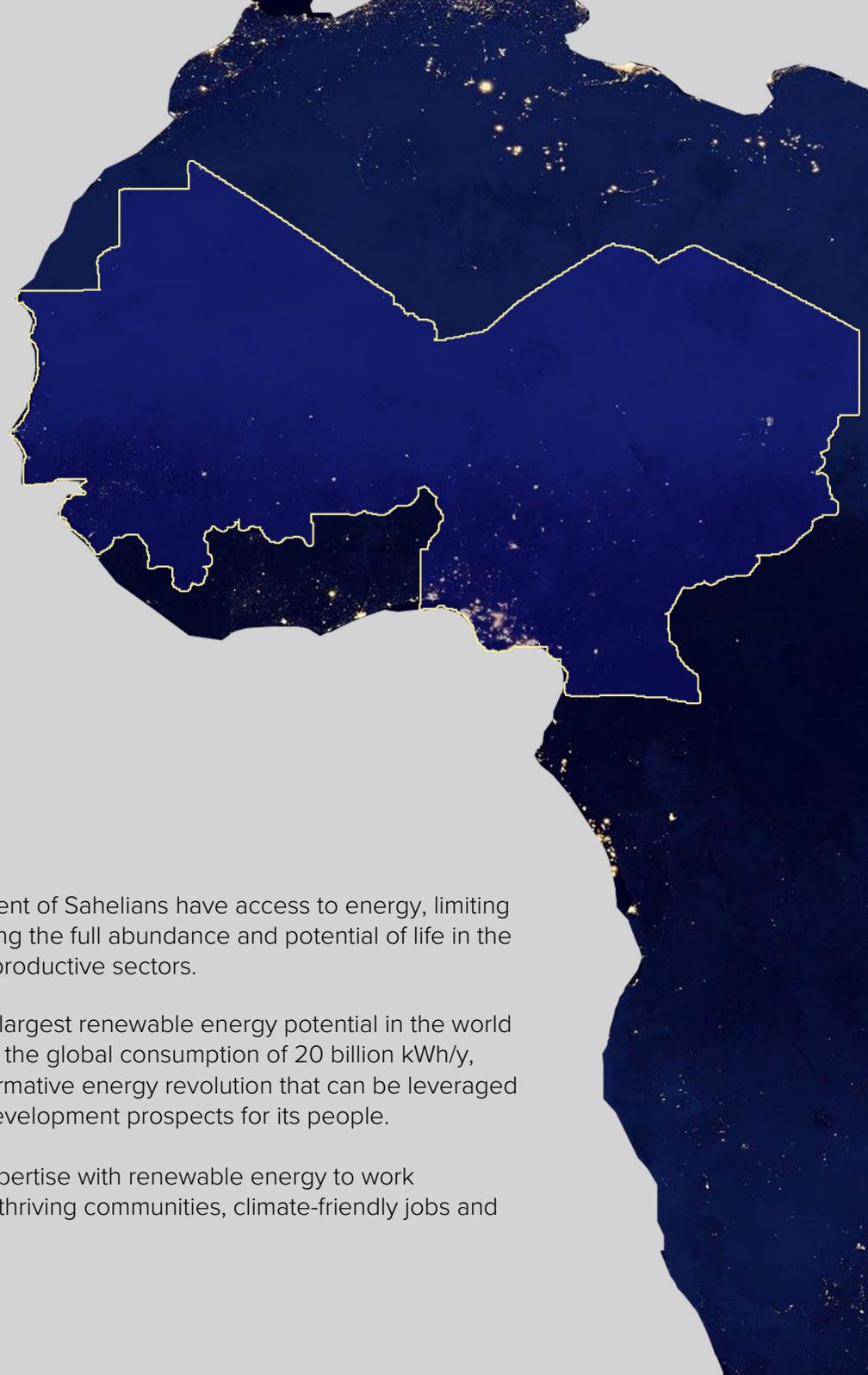
attention paid to borderlands, UNDP's programs will aim to reduce risks and vulnerability, prevent conflicts, build resilience, transform economies, and put communities and the state on the sustainable development path. This entails complementing and amplifying localized solutions charted by Sahelians at the forefront of collective responses.

To implement this bold new structural approach to transforming and regenerating the Sahel, we will draw on our invaluable partnerships and platforms in all sectors. In everything we do, UNDP works with governments, communities, businesses, civil society, community groups and regional entities UN agencies and development partners. Together with our partners, we will do our best every day to help chart a new trajectory for the people of the Sahel, from delivering aid to ending need, and create the thriving Sahel that we all know is possible.



A REGENERATION AT A GLANCE

# FROM CRISIS TO OPPORTUNITY



## GOVERNANCE



**Crisis:** Failures in governance (political, social, economic and environmental) create ground for weakened social contracts and deadly attacks in which thousands are killed and millions displaced.

**Opportunity:** Increased levels of citizen engagement and participation, and an enhanced culture of democratic transitions.

**UNDP's Offer:** A multifaceted approach to interventions at regional, national and local governance levels emphasizing outreach to rural populations to help restore and reinforce social contracts, and build social capital between citizens and the state. We will work to institutionalize a political culture of tolerance for divergent views and peaceful transition through elections, and invest in digital governance to promote systems of integrity, human capital formation and accelerated service delivery.

## YOUTH



**Crisis:** Widespread poverty and high youth unemployment worsened by COVID-19.

**Opportunity:** Sixty-five percent of the population is under age 25 — young people who can drive the global industries of today and tomorrow.

**UNDP's Offer:** Train, connect and finance youth to expand their roles as workers, job creators and leaders in energy, governance and other sectors to create a sustainable future.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY



**Crisis:** Only 30 per cent of Sahelians have access to energy, limiting possibilities for reaping the full abundance and potential of life in the Sahel on social and productive sectors.

**Opportunity:** The Sahel has the largest renewable energy potential in the world — 13.9 billion kWh/y compared to the global consumption of 20 billion kWh/y, offering opportunity for a transformative energy revolution that can be leveraged to strengthen socio-economic development prospects for its people.

**UNDP's Offer:** Put our global expertise with renewable energy to work throughout the Sahel to support thriving communities, climate-friendly jobs and good governance.

## THE AMBITION



# 10 UNISS SAHEL COUNTRIES



**150  
MILLION**

people from the Sahel with access to clean and affordable energy



**10  
MILLION**

young people from the Sahel mobilized



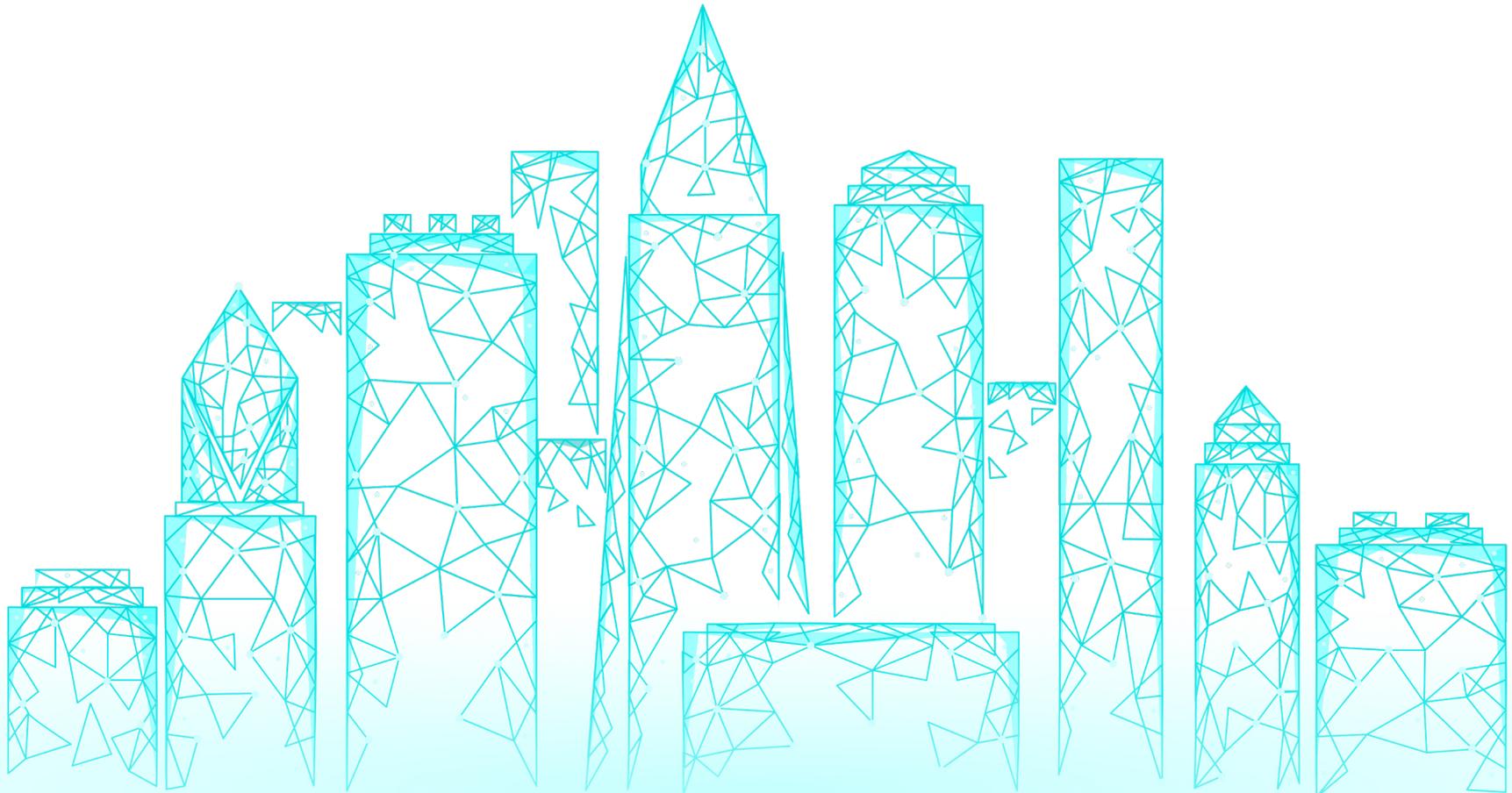
**10  
BILLION**

trees planted and regenerated in the Sahel



**100  
THOUSAND**

young Sahelian entrepreneurs created



# THE GLOBAL LAUNCH EVENT

## Objective

Showcase UNDP's substantive contribution to implementing the UNISS and advancing a narrative shift towards achieving the Sahel promise.

## FORMAT



Under the leadership of the UN DSG, the global launch held on 9 December 2021 is a 120-minutes bilingual event hosted by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner under the aegis of the UN Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel, Mr. Abdoulaye Mar Dieye.

The online global launch is the culmination of a series of local events in all ten Sahel countries, showcasing the region as a land of opportunities as a basis for UNDP's scaled up action in support of Regeneration. It is expected to attract over 500 participants at the global level and from the region, including Member states, local authorities and communities, youth and women groups, civil society organizations, private entrepreneurs, NGOs, and UN organizations.

Artistic performances and testimonies will be interwoven with keynote messages and grassroots interventions from various stakeholders and partners across the Sahel. The event is crafted around two sessions featuring high level remarks and the presentation of "A Regeneration", followed by a moderated conversation on opportunities and solutions to regenerate the Sahel.

Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available throughout.

## OUTLINE



The launch is a 120-minute bilingual French-English event divided into two main segments:

### SESSION I

- Indigenous Sahelian griots weave a tapestry of remarks from the DSG/OSCDs/AU, event host UNDP Administrator, and high-level dignitaries and Sahelian voices preceding the launch by the Niger President
- A presentation of 'A Regeneration' with a virtual mission into the Sahel to showcase Sahelian aspiration and voices.

### SESSION II

- A moderated discussion among Sahelians on opportunities and what it takes to regenerate the Sahel. Closing remarks and artistic performances will fade out the event.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES



Sahelian voices at the frontlines of development and peace efforts are elevated and positioned globally



UNDP's contribution to implementing the UNISS demonstrated as a novel development approach for scaled up action in the Sahel



The narrative shift on the Sahel is advanced with reframed lens from crisis to opportunities, resilience, and homegrown solutions, as the basis to transition from aid delivery to ending needs.

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