



## Press Release

### How Can the Energy Transition Succeed in Developing Countries?

#### IASS to develop proposals for financial assistance and technology transfer

The international energy transition is already delivering numerous benefits, but it is also creating new inequalities. The risks posed by this transformation will impact especially on developing countries, which lack access to technologies and capital. A new project at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam is developing policy recommendations with a view to making the energy transition a success in developing countries too.

#### Working with affected parties to identify solutions

“Developing countries have a central role to play in the global energy transition. Yet given their economic circumstances, implementing the Paris Agreement is far more difficult for them,” explains Project Leader [Andreas Goldthau](#). This became clear at the Katowice Climate Change Conference in December, where states agreed rules for the transfer of financial assistance and energy technologies from industrial nations to developing countries, but did not detail how this would work in practice.

The project “Investigating the Systemic Impacts of the Global Energy Transition” tries to find socially responsible solutions to the challenges of the global energy transition together with the institutions and groups most affected. It begins its work in January 2019 with 1.5 million euro in funding from the Franco-German fellowship programme to support research in the areas of climate, energy and Earth systems science as part of the French initiative [“Make our planet great again”](#). The initiative was launched by President Emmanuel Macron in June 2017. The [Federal Ministry of Education and Research \(BMBF\)](#) will provide 15 million euros for the entire programme and the [French Ministry of Education](#) 30 million euros. This funding will be supplemented by contributions from various research partners.

#### Unequal access to technologies and capital

The energy transition is largely presented in a positive light. This, however, does not tell the entire story, explains Andreas Goldthau: “The energy transition throws up a range of systemic risks that are particularly pertinent to the countries of the Global South: investments in fossil-based sources of energy are no longer likely to be profitable over the longer term, while those holding patents to the technologies vital to a low-carbon economy will be at an advantage in future. However, these patents are held almost exclusively by OECD countries and China. This research will highlight the adjustments that need to be made in order to ensure that the gains of the energy transition are distributed fairly.”

The research undertaken in this project will encompass interviews with economic and political decision-makers, scenario analyses that highlight the risks to which countries of the Global South are exposed, and case studies in different parts of the world. In a next step,



the research team will develop policy recommendations for meeting the challenges faced by developing countries.

More information about this project can be found on our website: <https://www.iass-potsdam.de/en/research/systemic-impacts-global-energy-transition-isiget>

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The Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) conducts research with the goal of identifying, advancing, and guiding transformation processes towards sustainable societies in Germany and abroad. Its research practice is transdisciplinary, transformative, and co-creative. The institute cooperates with partners in academia, political institutions, administrations, civil society, and the business community to understand sustainability challenges and generate potential solutions. A strong network of national and international partners supports the work of the institute. Among its central research topics are the energy transition, emerging technologies, climate change, air quality, systemic risks, governance and participation, and cultures of transformation. The IASS is funded by the research ministries of the Federal Government of Germany and the State of Brandenburg.

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