0:00:07.2 Speaker 1: Sorry I was on mute.

0:00:08.3 Speaker 2: I don't know if you can you hear me... It looks... You're muted.

0:00:10.8 Speaker 1: Yeah. So, annoyingly that doesn't work. So, I've pressed the record button, we'll try and keep this short, but could you tell us about... Could you start by telling us a little bit about your current role in your organization that you work for?

0:00:29.0 Speaker 2: Okay, thank you. So, I'm XXXX. I have a background in renewable energy technologies. I have an MSc from XXXX University of Science and Technology, and I've been working in the international NGO for about... I think this is my sixth year. Yeah, sixth year. And my role basically is to provide advisory support services to SMEs in the energy space. Part of my experience includes working with clean cooking, related SMEs which essentially trying to provide sustainable cooking solutions to end users. I have also had to work on projects which seek to support entrepreneurs in terms of their business model canvassing. Things like helping them to develop models that are sustainable that can stand the test of time that are resilient enough.

0:01:58.8 S2: Yeah, currently in my role is what we call the energy and market linkages advisor on a project called the XXXXfor short. My work basically is trying to identify potential B2B and B2C linkages and help to bring that to pass, to establish those linkages, to help businesses to grow their portfolios and things like that. So essentially, that's my role. My organization is XXXX. So XXXX is an international NGO that is focused in... Works in three focus areas. Energy, agriculture, WASH, Water and Sanitation Hygiene.

0:03:10.7 S1: Okay.

0:03:12.1 S2: Yes, basically our focus is developing sustainable markets and providing advocacy but effectively we implement projects. So we are not have a donor, we write proposals, we get donor funding and we implement projects.

0:03:28.3 S1: Okay.

0:03:30.3 S2: I think that should be enough for now.

0:03:32.2 S1: Yeah, brilliant. Could you tell me a little bit about your background in terms of how you got into this type of work?

0:03:43.2 S2: I read agricultural engineering as an undergraduate. So after that, I pursued a Master's in renewable energy technologies. The interest has always been to work in a space where sustainability is the focus. That's always been the interest. So everybody wants to get a job and contribute their quota but also, I think your interest matters. And maybe I got lucky. I don't know how I should put it, but I got to do exactly what I think I would like to do, which is something sustainability related. So I got into SME and for all the six years I've practiced, I've essentially worked with SME on different projects but... All my professional life. I taught a bit. I lectured a little bit at some point in time but largely my work has been with the SME. I don't know if that answers your question but it's the desire to work in a the sustainability field and I also find myself having some sort of passion for supporting businesses, building their capacities and helping them to achieve their business goals.

0:05:20.3 S1: That's brilliant. In thinking about... I'm kind of thinking about policies. Are there any current policies or development which are shaping your work at national...

0:05:40.6 S2: Will you kindly take that again?

0:05:42.5 S1: In terms of policies, national policies, which are shaping your work, which are influencing your work, are there any kind of current policies or begets of political issues which are influencing your current work?

0:05:58.5 S2: Okay, good. Yes, yes, there are a number of policies that are providing let me say some sort of enabling environment for the kind of things we are doing. So, largely, there is interest in youth employment. So the government has this policy to provide avenues for the youth of the country to be employed. So, I might not be able to quote you go to the exact policy.

0:06:38.7 S1: That's fine.

0:06:39.5 S2: But those are things we could always refer to later, there is also interest in sustainability. I think globally, the world is all gearing a journey towards sustainability. The Sustainable Development Goals tell it all, and in Ghana we are also consenting to that. So, yes, there are policy matters relating to energy use, how our energy... The mix of our energy, how sustainable production is encouraged. There are things like that... I mean, there is this a discussion about using greener energy... Greener probably not always clean but I think greener ways of doing things which feed well into the kind of sustainable activities written back to them. Yeah, a few things like that.

0:07:48.5 S1: That's useful. Yeah. I mean you it's useful to see actually non NGO policies like, youth employment being a focus and but moving on, just thinking about time. What in your opinion, what does energy, equitable energy access. What does that mean to you?

0:08:06.2 S2: Equitable energy access. So that sounds to me like... So once we seek to make sure energy is accessible. We also have this extra focus on making sure that or all... It's all inclusive or it's inclusive enough that all the various categories of end users are considered. And I mean, there are tailored interventions to ensure that all these people on these various categories of end users get access as they should. If I should explain further. For instance, if you are designing... If you're designing stoves... A large chunk of the work I do is in cook stoves, greener, in the area of cooks stoves. So that's how come I could use some of these examples. If for instance, you wanna design cook stoves to ensure that cooking is done in the most clean way possible. You would have to factor those who will would be using the cook stoves, which are usually women in other our parts of the world. So whatever designs you are considering which you should focus on this special group of end users as well. Well, I don't know if I've got it right, but that's how I understand equitable.

0:10:08.2 S1: That's good. It's not a quiz, really, it's not a quiz. But actually you have already touched on something which leads drives me to the next question, which is then so to you, what does gender equity in energy access mean to you?

0:10:23.6 S2: Energy access.

0:10:23.7 S1: Yeah. So if you're looking at the cook stove, stoves, so gender equity in energy access.

0:10:35.1 S2: Sorry. So this is becoming more difficult for me they are coming up so... The interruptions are just too many. These boys are... I'm sorry. I think the timing is a bit not favourable favorable but let's see. So you want to... Kindly give me a second if you don't mind.

0:10:52.7 S1: Yeah sure. No problem. Amos, I was just thinking, if this it gets too much for XXXX, you know, we could also reschedule it. Yeah, I mean, it's fine terms of sound from my end. I think the recording is fine. Actually, it's not too bad. But yeah, if XXXX thinks this that is too disruptive for him, then, you know, we could potentially.

0:11:18.5 S3: Yeah. Yeah. Reschedule.

0:11:22.0 S1: Yeah.

0:11:26.3 S3: Let's see if he will be able to get them to keep quiet a little bit.

0:11:32.9 S1: I see it a lot with my colleagues at the moment as well. If you have sort of fellow all the small kids, it's just too really difficult working from home and also...

0:11:40.0 S3: Yeah.

0:11:46.4 S1: I'm just gonna pause the recording here.