

DAY 1 - Tuesday, 4 March 2025

8:00 Conference Registration Opens

9:00 WELCOME AND OPENING

9:10 KEYNOTE ADDRESS

9:30 Scene Setting - 1 - OPTIONAL

9:40 **OPENING PLENARY PANEL:** Balancing Africa's need for Development and a Just Energy Transition

Africa faces the dual challenge of meeting its growing energy demands while mitigating climate change. Africa's approach to achieving a just transition to a net-zero should be guided by its level of economic development, availability of energy sources and population needs. It is therefore expected that the region will use its own resources depending on energy reliability, availability and cost considerations and adopting a decarbonization timetable that matches Africa's specific developmental needs.

This session will foster dialogue on creating a pathway towards a secure and sustainable energy future for all Africans as the continent transitions to cleaner sustainable energy and the opportunities afforded to uplift communities through job creation, economic growth and partnerships and ensuring that these developments are sustained.

11:00 BREAK - Meet the Exhibitors and make use of B2B Connect

11:15 **PLENARY PANEL 1:** Impact Investing in Africa's Energy Sector: Aligning Financial Returns with Social and Environmental Goals

Financial returns are no longer the only measure of performance when making investment decisions. The focus is shifting towards a blended set of performance measures that place more emphasis on responsible and considered investments and accountability for the consequential impacts of such decisions.

This session aims to consider how the world of ESG is changing and how big corporates can take advantage of the just transition to make sustainable impact in the evolved world of ESG. Furthermore, exploring the growing role of impact investing in driving positive social and environmental outcomes in Africa's energy sector, focusing on investments that generate measurable social and environmental benefits alongside financial returns, and discuss best practices for integrating impact considerations into investment decision-making processes.

12:30 LUNCH BREAK - Meet the Exhibitors and make use of B2B Connect

13:30 Scene Setting - 2 - OPTIONAL

13:45 **PLENARY PANEL 2:** Investing in Africa's Energy Sector: Risk Management

Perceived risks in renewable plant deployment may not always align with actual outcomes. Also, many countries are seeking to encourage commercial PPAs without government guarantees and/or with short-term tenors that bring project finance risks. As construction track records across the continent increase, there's an opportunity to recalibrate risk and thus optimize security arrangements, potentially lowering financial burdens for market participants. This evolution prompts a re-evaluation of the typical performance securities, which are required for project viability and financing.

This session aims to consider the importance of policy and regulatory frameworks in attracting investment in Africa's energy sector, including measures to reduce investment risks, enhance regulatory certainty, and create conducive environments for sustainable finance and investment. The need for Parent Company Guarantees, off-taker bankability and other securities will be discussed in relation to benchmarking regional requirements, comparisons to the global landscape and strategies for aligning financial assurances with evolving project risks.

14:45 BREAK - Meet the Exhibitors and make use of B2B Connect



THEME

**African Energy
– Pathways
to Prosperity
[Resolutely
Delivering a
Robust Future]**

15:00 **PLENARY PANEL 3: Transitioning Africa's Energy Sector: Supply Chain Considerations**

The last number of years have seen major disruptions in global supply chains -first due to the pandemic and then due to geo-political and other factors. Lenders are increasingly looking at sustainability imperatives when financing renewable energy projects and this includes sourcing practices of IPPs and where products/components are being sourced from. Given rapid growth in the roll-out of renewable energy generation on the continent, can African countries compete with other global markers for the production of renewable energy components needed for the transition to a lower carbon future? *This session aims to consider how Africa can build resilience in supply chains and ensure products are sourced in line with sustainability best practice? Since all this equipment has a finite lifetime, the next major challenge will be how to deal with the mountains of old equipment. If some means of repurposing the equipment involved and if the critical metals and minerals can be recovered and recycled, this will reduce the pressure on mining them. This could impact the African countries that produce these commodities and developing/operating the recycling processes would be a suitable alternative revenue generation opportunity. What will it take to realise these opportunities?*

16:00 **PLENARY PANEL 4: Digitalization and Energy Sustainability / Affordability for Africa**

The African continent has a vast potential when considering natural resources. Renewable energy is not an exception, if we consider the availability of wind and solar, it's quite clear that renewables have a role to play in the continent. Unfortunately, resources on their own are not sufficient to ensure that the benefits of generating low carbon energy can be distributed to the wider community. *This session aims to consider the transformative potential of digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and big data analytics in optimizing operations, improving asset management, and enabling predictive maintenance in the energy sector. How can digital technologies (smart grids, blockchain, big data) improve energy efficiency, optimize grid management, and facilitate clean energy integration. What are the trends? Who are leading and to what extent is Africa taking advantage.*



17:00 **CLOSE OF THE DAY - NETWORKING COCKTAIL RECEPTION**

DAY 2 - Wednesday, 5 March 2025



8:00 **Conference Registration Opens**

9:00 **BREAKAWAY PANEL 5:**

Climate Resilience

It is generally accepted that climate change is a reality. Climate change is anticipated to change the solar insolation patterns and wind speed and direction throughout the World. Africa, because of its physical positioning in both the northern and southern hemispheres may be particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including extreme weather events, sea-level rise, and changing precipitation patterns. Africa is already experiencing extreme weather events followed by infrastructure damage and loss of life. *This session aims to discuss what are the changes expected in Africa? Will they be positive, negative or both? The session will also explore strategies for enhancing the resilience of energy infrastructure to climate change, through climate-resilient design, adaptive measures, and risk management strategies*

BREAKAWAY PANEL 6:

Electrical Transmission Networks

Grid interconnectedness and inter-country Energy collaboration can contribute to Africa's decarbonization roadmap. Each country in Africa has its own unique mix of generation modes, ranging from coal, gas, wind, solar, hydro, geothermal and biomass. Many of these have seasonal and/or daily variability which poses reliability challenges at a local level. By combining the various generation types and using their output conjunctively, a more efficient, reliable, and cost-effective Energy future should be achievable for Africa as a whole. A robust transmission network is a critical requirement to facilitate this aspiration. *This session aims to explore the extent of grid expansions required and how these could be financed. Is it time for the private sector to become involved in the development of transmission infrastructure, especially interconnectors? What are the appropriate business models for private participation and is transmission pricing mature enough to underpin such investments?*

BREAKAWAY PANEL 7:

Competitive Electricity Markets for Africa

The business models for electricity supply in Africa have been evolving rather slowly when compared to Europe, parts of Asia and the Americas. The monopolistic State-Owned Utility model is still very common, but some countries are moving, albeit through various stages, towards a fully competitive market model. *This session aims to discuss the developments in power transmission and market structures, exploring the role Independent Transmission Companies (ITCs) can play in the evolving energy landscape. It will explore the impacts of decentralization, the introduction of innovative market mechanisms, and the unbundling of public utilities. Discussions will delve into how ITCs can drive operational efficiencies, enhance competitive market access, and foster regional integration. Participants will gain insights into how these reforms are poised to influence national energy strategy and positively impact regional market cooperation. Numerous opportunities will open for participation by Generators, IPP's, distributors, traders, brokers/resellers etc. As this physical market develops, with an underlying reference to short term pricing being established, a future financial energy market for derivative trading will also no-doubt be established*

10:30 BREAK - Meet the Exhibitors and make use of B2B Connect

11:00 BREAKAWAY PANEL 8:

Africa's Response to Carbon Border Adjustments

The implementation of the European Union's carbon border adjustment mechanism could have a devastating effect on exports from African countries.

This session aims to explore what African countries can do to mitigate the impact of such restrictions. What role could renewable energy systems and green hydrogen play? What is the role of the African Union, the African Development Bank, and the Regional Economic Commissions? What can Africa expect from the World Bank Group, the European Investment Bank and European Development Fund in terms of assistance,

BREAKAWAY PANEL 9:

Decentralised Grid Solutions

A significant portion of Africa's population still lack access to reliable electricity. Discussions on possible solutions usually refer to the development of micro grids for improving access to energy for the African population. Referring to "micro grids" creates the impression that these are only designed for small scale applications whereas, in practice, they may be quite substantial and effectively rather be an "independent grid". Historically, electrical networks tended to develop around isolated industrial and/or mining settlements and supported the community around them. *This session aims to consider whether these types of "independent grid" should thus be prioritised over the "micro grid" in order to promote the development of access to energy through projects in the 10 to 200 MW range, as was the case when electrical networks first developed independently before subsequently becoming interconnected to form integrated, national grids? Furthermore, since such grids are provided in many different sizes and provide varying degrees supply guarantee. Is there scope to develop a standard approach and solution to provide systems that can develop and later be integrated into regional, national or power pool electrical networks. What would acceptable levels of supply look like to meet the local community requirements? For example, does the micro grid need to provide for a full 100% available electrical supply or are there steps to reach this level of service?*

BREAKAWAY PANEL 10:

Funding Africa's Energy Sector Development

Sometimes it's hard for renewable energy projects in Africa to get the money they need. Often the terms and conditions imposed by lenders are focussed on developed country investment models and they become quite onerous in the context of Africa. It is also difficult to service the debt when it is denominated in a foreign currency that is dissimilar from the currency used in the tariff structures applied to new generation projects.

This session aims to discuss and explore innovative financing mechanisms and investment strategies to mobilize large-scale capital for Africa's energy transition. It will delve into the role of public-private partnerships, green bonds, impact investing, and multilateral development finance in attracting investment towards renewable energy projects, energy efficiency initiatives, and sustainable infrastructure development across the continent. Participants will discuss challenges and opportunities in accessing finance, leveraging blended finance instruments, and fostering a conducive investment environment to accelerate Africa's shift towards a low-carbon, resilient energy future.

12:30 LUNCH BREAK - Meet the Exhibitors and make use of B2B Connect

13:30 BREAKAWAY PANEL 11:

Hybrid Renewable Solutions

Countries are still focused on sending out bidding RFPs based on silo technologies and losing opportunities to hybridise and seek energy solutions that allow developers to innovate and drive costs down.

This session aims to explore the benefits of hybrid energy solutions reviewing the pros and cons of various combinations of Wind, Photo Voltaic, Hydro, Pumped Storage and Battery Storage solutions through case study examples. The session will also consider what is required to promote and develop regional and cross border Hydro and Pumped Hydro Storage schemes by utilities and private developers to support the national electricity grids and regional power pools?

BREAKAWAY PANEL 12:

Regional Cooperation for a Pan-African Energy Exchange

Africa has a wealth of energy potential that if developed in a collaborative approach can ensure energy security, drive universal access to energy and improve affordability. Different areas have different energy resources which if deployed in a collaborative manner can give Africa competitive and developmental advantage.

This session aims to discuss the benefits of regional cooperation in Africa, including cross-border energy trade, pooling resources, and joint infrastructure development. What can be done to expedite and promote cooperation between countries to facilitate and fast track the development of robust interconnections of pipelines and transmission lines to provide pathways to Africa's prosperity

BREAKAWAY PANEL 13:

Africa's Critical Mineral Resources

Africa is blessed with significant deposits of many of the critical minerals used in the renewable energy manufacturing industries. At present the approach appears to be to simply mine these minerals and then export them rather than add value locally.

This session aims to consider what African countries could be doing to maximise the value from the critical minerals used in renewable energy installations and storage? The amount of e-Waste is growing exponentially. Is there an opportunity for African countries to lead the way in recovery of critical minerals from e-waste?

15:00 BREAK - Meet the Exhibitors and make use of B2B Connect

15:30

BREAKAWAY PANEL 14:

Transition in the Liquid Fuels Sector – Impact on Mobility

Oil and Liquid Fuels represent a large portion of the energy sector. Apart from their use in industrial applications they represent the major energy source for Africa’s mobility, road, rail, air and ship. Environmental concerns about the impact of fossil fuels are pressuring the transport sector to transition towards sustainable fuels. One technology that is being considered in plans to decarbonise energy is Carbon Capture Utilisation & Storage (CCUS). If CCUS is an effective way of reducing the CO2 emissions, then does it have a role to play in Africa especially for oil & gas producing countries?

This session aims to consider how the liquid fuels sector might respond to these pressures. What are the policies and technologies that will be necessary for this transition to happen? If the sector fails to transition, what will this mean in terms of energy security for mobility applications? While this is a global issue, should new African projects be pioneering technologies such as biofuels or CCUS to attract global investment capital, or should Africa get an exemption for development reasons, recognising its low contribution to CO2 emissions?

BREAKAWAY PANEL 15:

Geothermal Energy for Africa

With recent rapid advances in technology there is no longer a need for high temperature resources for power generation. In addition, there is global recognition that geothermal heating and cooling has huge potential to both decarbonise these systems and associated applications. Therefore, geothermal can have a significant impact in residential, commercial and industrial sectors.

This session aims to consider the potential of geothermal as a energy resource for Africa. What are the enablers necessary to support the identification and development of geothermal resources? How will the increased awareness and use of geothermal support the social and economic development of African countries?

BREAKAWAY PANEL 16:

Building Capacity and Skills for Africa’s Energy Transformation

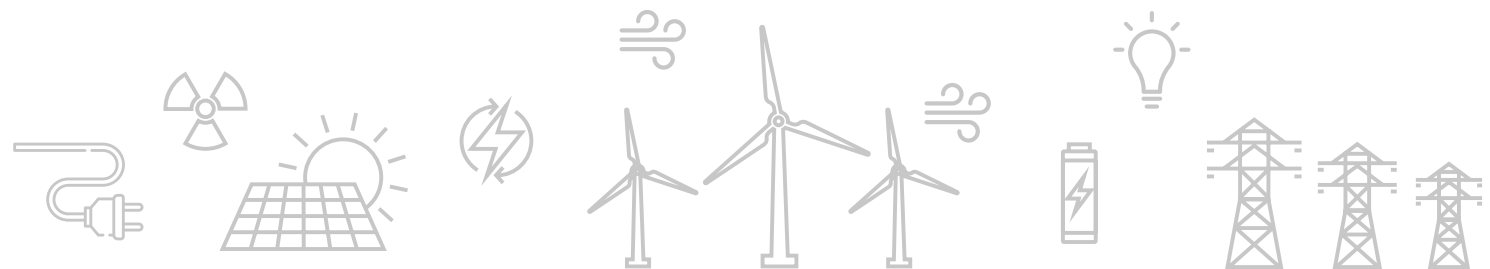
The transition from fossil fuel-based energy systems towards renewables and other more sustainable systems is creating a need for different skills. Africa is already struggling with insufficient numbers of highly skilled people while there are millions of Africans who are unemployed.

This session aims to delve into the importance of decentralized energy solutions in achieving energy access goals across Africa and explore strategies for building local capacity through community-based training initiatives to equip African youth and communities with the skills needed to thrive in the renewable energy sector, whilst still contextualising the needs to Africa’s Just Transition priorities. The session will also address the challenge of securing funding for energy training initiatives and discuss best practices for collaboration between governments, private sector entities, and NGOs to support skill development in the energy sector.

17:00

CLOSE OF THE DAY

Programme is subject to change



Official Side Events



Africa Gas Forum



AFUR Conference



Hydrogen Forum



Women in Energy Breakfast



IPP & PPA Conference



Nuclear Forum



Renewables Indaba



EV Forum

GOVERNMENT HOST



STRATEGIC PARTNER

